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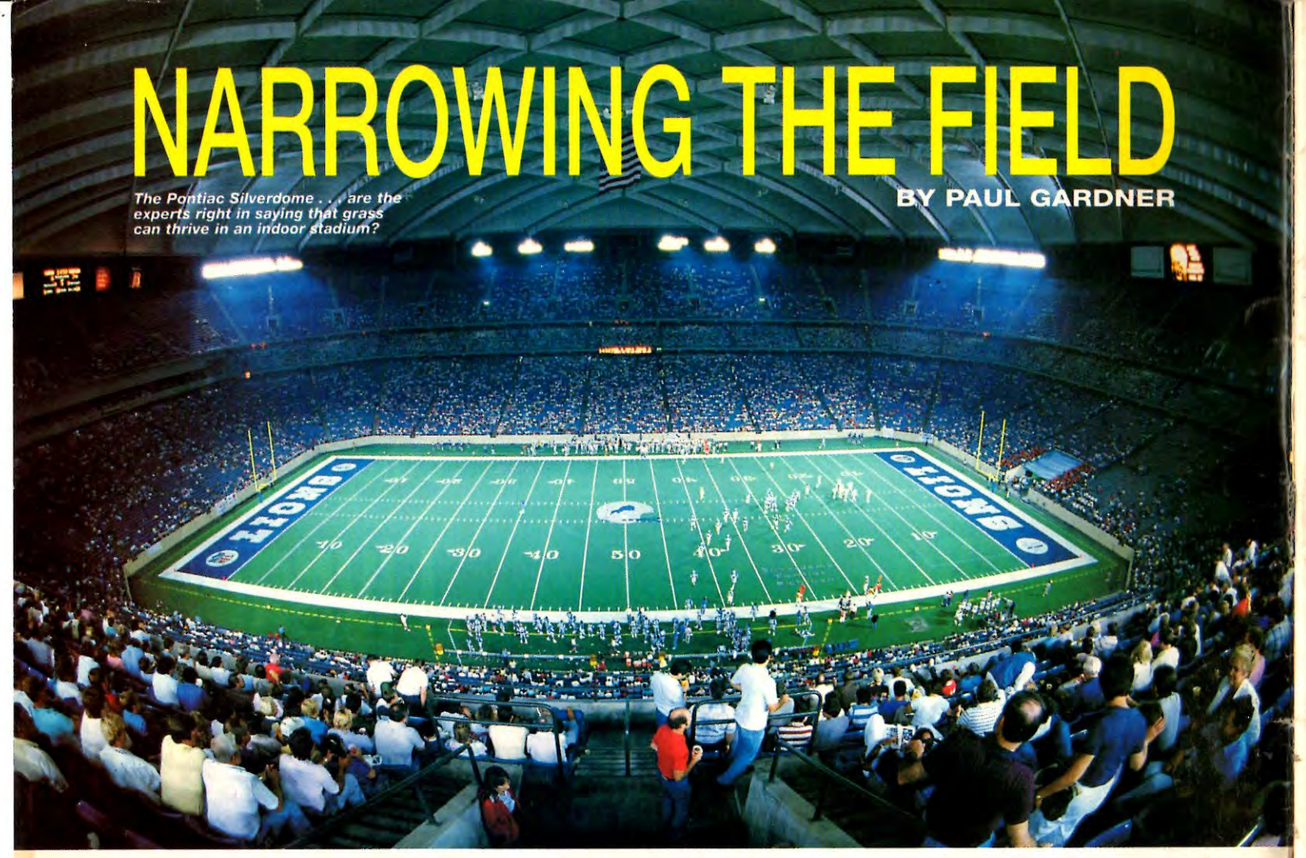
NARROWING THE FIELD

BY PAUL GARDNER



The Pontiac Silverdome . . . are the experts right in saying that grass can thrive in an indoor stadium?

Eight is the favourite '94 number

A PLAYER from Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic will take the first official kick at a soccer ball in World Cup '94.

That will be on March 21, when the countries meet in San Jose in the first of over 300 world-wide qualifiers.

While that one kick clearly marks the beginning of action on the field, it is not so easy to pin down the off-the-field activities.

The American organisers have twice announced the "kick-off" for 1994.

The first time in December 1990, was a dreadfully dull conference announcing nothing more exciting than a marketing agreement. A year later came another beginning, with the World Cup draw in New York.

Feeling

Neither event got anyone much further in understanding just what the World Cup in the United States was going to look like. How could anyone get a feeling for World Cup '94 when, so far, nobody even knows which cities will stage the games?

The delay in naming the venues (the announcement has been repeatedly postponed) inevitably led to rumours that all was not well, even that the World Cup was about to be moved.

But now the great day has been specifically announced. on March 23, the sites will become known. From the list of 19 "priority communities", the organising committee will select a dozen for the honour of staging games.

Twelve sites, because it's been 12 ever since FIFA upped the number of teams in the final round from 16 to 24, but there may not be 12 cities.

The tournament will be held at between eight and 12 venues. And the strong rumours are that it will be eight.

Luca Di Montezemolo, the man who ran the 1990 World Cup in Italy, wanted fewer cities, because dealing with 12 sets of municipal authorities had been a nightmare.

No doubt such thoughts are in the minds of the US organisers, but they are not the prime reason for a reduction in numbers. That reason, purely and simply, is money. Eight will be a lot cheaper to run than 12. And money is something that is a bit of a worry for the WC '94 people at the moment.

The recession has a lot to do with it. The sponsor count has been stuck on two (American Airlines and US-Sprint Telecommunications) for some time now. Officially, they are Marketing Partners, but whatever you call them, there's still only two instead of nine.

So there's not a great deal of cash pouring in on the sponsor front. Nor, of course, from ticket sales. That source, one of the largest, cannot start producing until the stadiums are known.

Television? Two of the major networks, ABC and CBS, working with allied cable companies, are interested. The novelty here is that both have agreed not to show commercials during live action.

Other ways of getting the sponsor's messages over — by framing the screen, or using "crawlers" along the bottom of the picture — will be tried.

TV, however, is unlikely to be a major income source, as any rights fee will have to cover the costs of producing the telecasts for each of the 52 games.

Thanks to the peculiarities of American politics, another promising income-producer is temporarily blocked. The idea is to mint special World Cup coins in 1994, but an enabling bill has to be passed by Congress, and so far it hasn't happened.

Economy and ease of organisation, then, point strongly towards eight cities. Other justifications are not lacking. Eight cities would mean eight strong cities in the eight strongest soccer areas of the US.

Each stadium would have at least two games featuring a seeded team. In the first round, six of the stadiums would stage four games each, with the others staging six each. All eight would continue in use during the second round.

Assuming it is to be eight, which eight? Something like this: New York (Giants Stadium), Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Florida (Orlando or Tampa), Boston, Dallas, and Detroit (the indoor Silverdome). That group spreads over most of the US, and takes in the major tourist areas.

But there are problems. The Silverdome, for instance, will have to change its artificial turf for grass. Experts say that can be done, and that grass can thrive indoors.

They sound convincing — but the reality is that nobody has ever yet laid a full grass field indoors, never mind kept it in good condition for several weeks while games are played on it.

In Boston, the field has to be widened — which causes another problem. A large number of seats will lose their full view of the field.

There is a width problem, too, at Giants Stadium. To allow room for corner kicks the field cannot be more than 72 yards wide.

At one point the extra width was going to be obtained by building a massive platform to raise the level of the field above the level of the retaining wall. But that plan has been blocked by the stadium authorities, who made it plain that such an upheaval is more than they're willing to take.

Which left only one alternative, which USSF president Alan Rothenberg duly laid before FIFA: if you want to use Giants Stadium, you'll have to relax the 75-yard width requirement.

So strong is FIFA's desire to have games in the New York area, particularly at Giants Stadium, that they seem likely to allow the use of a 72-yard field.

Spokesman Guido Tognoni says: "We are considering the implications of saying 'Yes.' FIFA say we should not be arguing over centimetres."

Should only eight grounds be used, and should Giants Stadium be one of them (both decisions seem more likely than not), the Yale Bowl in New Haven will be the big loser. A year ago, the Yale Bowl was the only feasible site for games in the New York area.

Pushing

The local bid committee have done a tremendous amount of work pushing their candidacy. Now they may have to make way for the Giants Stadium people, who have never shown any enthusiasm, and have barely lifted a finger to promote their own cause.

It has not been necessary — so passionately have they been wooed by FIFA and the WC '94 organisers.

Question: when was the last time a team from the host country for the World Cup had to play qualifying games? A trick question — with a tricky answer. Because a team of Americans, holders of US passports, will be one of the contenders in the first qualifying round on March 21.

Puerto Ricans are US citizens — and all you need to play for Puerto Rico is an American passport.

There are no ancestry, birth, or residency requirements. Eligibility requirements that makes Ireland's look like the Spanish Inquisition. It means, in effect, that the US can put two national teams on the field. Or maybe more — the US Virgin Islands are an associate member of CONCACAF.

Premier League starts in August

A SEVEN-YEAR campaign by English soccer's wealthiest clubs will culminate in August with the start of the Premier League. The last obstacle was removed when the Football Association agreed not to proceed with their demand for all grounds to have a minimum capacity of 20,000.

The Big Five — Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham — began the campaign to break away from the four-division format in October 1985. Now after hundreds of hours of discussion between the FA, Football League, players and police, the new elite group will get under way next season.

There will be 22 clubs, reducing to 20 by the start of 1994-95. And this is bound to increase the desperation among the strugglers in the relegation zone.

The new set-up has many critics particularly those associated with the smaller clubs, but its inception always seemed inevitable once new agreements had been reached with the various television companies and sponsors.

The rich will get richer . . .

OLYMPICS ROUND-UP BY JOHN KELLY

BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA GO OUT

THE make-up of the Olympic Soccer finals in Barcelona is becoming clearer as the qualifying groups reach their final phases around the world.

And already there have been surprises, not least being the elimination of Brazil and Argentina — the two favourites from South America — at the first hurdle.

The 10 nations taking part in the South American qualifiers, all played in Asuncion in 17 hectic days, were organised into two groups of five with the top two in each group progressing to the final round.

Brazil, in group one, and Argentina, in group two, were expected to qualify without too much difficulty. Brazil opened with single-goal victories over Peru and Paraguay, but then lost 2-0 to unbeaten Colombia — leaving them level on points with Paraguay in second place with one game left.

Opening

Paraguay and Colombia drew their final match 0-0, leaving Brazil needing a win against bottom-placed Venezuela to overhaul Paraguay and take the second qualifying place.

Astonishingly, Brazil could only draw with the Venezuelans and so Colombia and Paraguay progressed.

In group two Argentina suffered a similar fate — winning their two opening matches before a draw and a defeat meant they could only manage third place in the group.

Ecuador's 5-1 thrashing of Chile in their final match confirmed their place in the final round; leaving Argentina needing just a draw in their last game with Uruguay to qualify alongside them. But Uruguay pulled off a 2-1 victory to clinch second place and the last qualifying berth.

In the final round, Colombia and Paraguay qualified for Barcelona; Paraguay topping the group with two wins and a draw, Colombia edging out Uruguay on goal difference with both teams level on three points.

In the Asian qualifying section, Qatar, South Korea and, amazingly, Kuwait qualified for Barcelona. Kuwait clinched the final qualifying place on goal difference from China, thanks to a 3-0 victory over Bahrain in their final match. Kuwait's qualification is quite an achievement considering that the country was ravaged by the Gulf War.

Spare a thought for China, though. In 13 qualifying matches they scored 58 goals and conceeded just six and still never made it! They led the final round group going into the last round of matches (which were all played on the same day) but the results conspired against them. Their 3-1 defeat by South Korea, coupled with Qatar's 1-0 victory over Japan and Kuwait's win over Bahrain meant they slipped from first to fourth place in one day and out of the tournament.

The three qualifiers from Africa are likely to be Ghana, Egypt and Morocco who are all well-placed after good results in their final round, first leg matches.

During

The CONCACAF region's two representatives will be decided during April and May with Mexico, Honduras, Canada and the United States the four final round qualifiers. The US and Mexico are the favourites to qualify, and the last match in the group, Canada at home to the US, could be crucial.

The four European qualifiers will come from Czechoslovakia, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Poland or Sweden, with the fifth-placed team playing off against Australia, the winners of the Oceania section, for the one remaining place in the finals.

WHAT'S ON?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
CHAMPIONS' CUP, semi-final group matches.
CUP-WINNERS' CUP, quarter-finals, first leg.
UEFA CUP, quarter-finals, first leg.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Spain v United States (venue tba).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
CHAMPIONS' CUP, semi-final group matches.
CUP-WINNERS' CUP, quarter-finals, second leg.
UEFA CUP, quarter-finals, second leg.
Morocco v United States (Casablanca).

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
Czechoslovakia B v England B.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25
Italy v Germany (Turin).
Czechoslovakia v England (Prague).
Republic of Ireland v Switzerland (Dublin).
Scotland v Finland (Glasgow).
Portugal v Bulgaria (Lisbon).

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Dean Saunders . . . UEFA Cup top scorer.

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Holland still need Hans

BUT HE'S GOING TO QUIT

GOALKEEPER Hans van Breukelen will play his last match for Holland in June. He has decided to retire from international football after the European Championships in Sweden.

Marco Van Basten and others have said he should carry on, but he is now 35 and can look back on a great career.

The highlight was the European Championship in 1988, when the Dutch team won their first major prize and Van Breukelen also won the Champions' Cup with PSV.

He has 65 caps — only Ruud Krol, with 83, won more for Holland — and has rarely failed since his international debut in 1980. Niall Quinn's goal for Ireland in the World Cup, when Van Breukelen fumbled a back pass, was a rare lapse. His club career, at Utrecht, Nottingham Forest and PSV, was equally successful.

Yet Van Breukelen was never popular in Holland.

This was partly due to his education (he was trained as a school-teacher), and partly to his exaggerated optimism, which earned him the nickname of "Positivo."

When Rinus Michels dropped him for a match against Hungary in 1987, there was public delight. "For some reason people don't like me," Van Breukelen sighed.

He wanted to be liked, but he became over-sensitive to criticism and was teased as a result.

Brian Clough used to call him "The Crazy Dutchman." Now Van Breukelen admits "my sickly need for praise" (his words).

Willem van Hanegem cites an example: "Take England's disallowed goal at the World Cup in 1990. Everyone saw that Van Breukelen tried to stop the ball, but he keeps saying that he let it go on purpose."

Van Breukelen's biggest worry was losing his place in the national team. He often felt that he was fighting the world, with the world trying to make someone else Holland's goalkeeper. Whenever a pundit proposed another candidate, Van Breukelen took it as a personal slight.

Stanley Menzo, Ruud Hesp and Joop Hiele were all tipped to replace him, but he made the place so much his own that it is now hard to imagine the Dutch goal without that huge jawbone.

Nobody knows who will take over after the finals in Sweden. The Dutch are worrying already.

Critics say that Van Breukelen is a made keeper, not a born one, and it is true that he is fanatical about training. His practice routine is exhausting, and it goes on for 15 minutes after his teammates have finished.

He is best on his line, but is brave on crosses and has become expert in one-on-one situations. Twice in Holland's decisive qualifying match he saved the team when silly back passes let Greek strikers through.

On the first occasion, even Saravakos and Tsiantakis together failed to beat him.

Yet Van Breukelen's speciality is saving penalties, as Igor Belanov can testify. In the European Championship final of 1988, Van Breukelen gave away a penalty by rugby-tackling a Soviet when there was no danger, then saved the ensuing kick with a magnificent dive. Later he revealed that "I knew all along" which side Belanov would put it.

Before the match Van Breukelen had phoned his former manager, Jan Reker, who keeps a file on all possible penalty-takers in Europe, recording their favourite corner and type of shot.

Van Breukelen also won the Champions' Cup for PSV against Benfica, when he saved Veloso's shot in a penalty shoot-out.

He plans to play one more season for PSV after the European Championship. His future may be in the media. He was a quizmaster on TV for some time, and has thought about going into sports journalism.

At times he yearns for England, where he was happiest. He speaks English well and is an Anglophile in football matters.

"It's a pity Eindhoven isn't in England," he says. "Football for the British is a sport. For us it's more like a science."

SIMON KUPER WS

100

CLUB FOCUS

LIVERPOOL, back in Europe for the first time since Heysel, celebrate their centenary this month. Their UEFA Cup opponents **GENOA** are 99 years old. ***WORLD SOCCER*** looks at the history of both.

Silver kings

Anfield's trophies make the others look small

BY DAVID **PROLE**

Scoring . . . Dean Saunders celebrates one of his goals against Swarovski Tirol in the UEFA Cup.

BILL SHANKLY looked round the after-match throng at Anfield around 5pm one September Saturday in 1963 and said: "I can assure you, gentlemen, that before this season ends we WILL win a home game."

Liverpool had begun by losing their first three home matches, the third of them 2-1 to West Ham on a day when the scorers (shades of '66) were Hunt, Peters and Hurst. The portents did not look too promising.

In the following game, however, Liverpool suddenly came to life and crushed Wolves 6-0: the turning point. At the end of the season, the club were champions for the sixth time, only two years after leaving the Second Division.

Nearly 30 years have gone by since then, and the progressive redevelopment of the Anfield ground (yet another scheme is now being undertaken to coincide with the club's centenary) has included several changes to the trophy room, making it bigger every time. Liverpool's progress in this period makes them, in terms of silverware, the most successful English club ever.

They have added 12 championships to the previous six, have won the FA Cup four times, the League Cup four times, the Champions' Cup four times and the UEFA Cup twice, and reached nine other major finals.

Qualified

Only once in the past 19 seasons have they finished lower than second. They have won two trophies in the same season seven times, and in 1983-84 they won three out of four. They became only the fifth club to do the Cup-and-League double, and the third to win three championships in a row.

With only four exceptions they have won at least one major trophy every season since 1972.

They qualified for European competition for 21 successive years, until banned indefinitely for crowd irregularities at Heysel, Brussels, in 1985.

The ban was later rescinded and Liverpool returned to Europe this season, just in time to mark the club's centenary. Although losing the away legs in the first two rounds of the UEFA Cup, to Kuusysi Lahti and Auxerre, they won 6-2 and 3-2 on aggregate, then beat Swarovski Tirol 2-0 and 4-0.

Now they approach their quarter-final against Genoa with a record of 88 wins in 146 European matches, 26 draws and 32 defeats, only three at home.

This immunity is an extension of the club's power at Anfield in domestic matches. Between returning to the First Division in 1962 and the end of last season, Liverpool lost only 59 home League games out of 602, plus three in the FA Cup (Swansea, Chelsea and Brighton) and two in the League Cup (Middlesbrough and Everton).

Liverpool's consistency down the years is remarkable enough merely from the soccer point of view. They have maintained it despite figuring in two of football's most horrifying disasters, Heysel and Hillsborough.

In Brussels, 39 fans — 31 of them Italian — were crushed when a wall collapsed. In Sheffield, 95 spectators at the Liverpool end of the ground died when trapped in a tunnel or against perimeter fencing. In both cases, hundreds more were injured and countless thousands mentally scarred.

Liverpool's continued presence at or very near the top of English football, after two such blows, reflects great credit on the mental strength of players, officials and the often-denigrated supporters.

The deeply moving scenes at funerals and other services, always attended by club representatives, will never be forgotten.

The fact that English football grounds are now much safer — too late, of course, but better than nothing — is perhaps a tribute to those who died.

Liverpool FC came into being 100 years ago as an offshoot from their great rivals, Everton, who played at Anfield for six years up to 1888. Then a dispute over rent led Everton to move to new premises, which became Goodison Park, and left landlord John Houlding with a ground but no team.

Houlding promptly formed another one, on March 15, 1892, and the club have remained in their first and only home ever since. The first season, in the Lancashire League, ended with the championship. This brought a place in the newly-extended Second Division of the Football League, and promotion at the first attempt.

Liverpool were unbeaten in their 29 games, including the then-compulsory Test match to decide promotion, thus equalling Preston's feat, four years earlier, of going through a League season without a defeat — a record that still stands.

The first title was achieved in 1900-01, after a run of 21 points from the last 12 games: the sort of sequence later Red outfits were to achieve so often.

Defied

The Football League then introduced a maximum wage, of £4 a week, ending the earlier free market that had been more to Liverpool's liking. So after another title in 1906, several up and down years followed, with the highlights, successive championships in 1922 and 1923, preceding a moderate decade in the 1930s.

In the first postwar season, 1946-47, Liverpool defied appalling weather, food rationing and various strikes to take the title again, with six wins and a draw in their last seven fixtures, five of them away.

Stoke could have taken the title if they had won their final match, but they lost. Liverpool were playing Everton in the Liverpool Senior Cup that day, and the scenes when the Stoke news was received rarely can have been equalled, even among so much modern euphoria.

Sadly this success presaged a period of decline, leading to relegation in 1954, with 97 goals conceded in 42 games. Even the "huge" outlay of £50,000 on five players did not help.

The club took a long time — eight years — to return from the Second Division. Not until Shankly's arrival from Huddersfield did a coherent team-building policy emerge, allied to a remarkable rapport with the fans. Particularly those on the Kop, the huge covered bank that became almost as famous as the club itself.

At one time, Shankly's backroom staff included Bob Paisley, a former wing-half with the club, Joe Fagan, ex-Manchester City, and Ronnie Moran, a rugged Scouse full-back.

All three later became Liverpool managers, although Moran gladly reverted to the coaching side after briefly succeeding Kenny Dalglish in February last year, and preceding Graeme Souness.

The continuity showed through on the field, where Shankly often would point out: "Liverpool don't change. Only the players change. Slowly." As the

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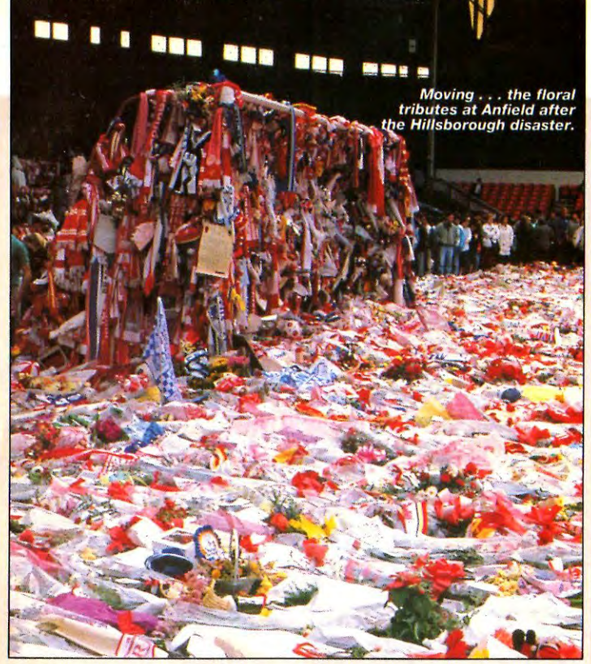

Moving . . . the floral tributes at Anfield after the Hillsborough disaster.

Stopping . . . a Kuusysi Lahti defender stops Liverpool's Ian Rush.

Grand old Genoa

European new boys are Italy's oldest club

BY NICK **BIDWELL**

Supporting . . . Genoa's colourful fans.

GENOA supporters have every reason to celebrate. Next year the club will reach the grand old age of 100.

And to mark their forthcoming centenary, Genoa are fast developing into a force both at home and elsewhere in Europe.

Last season they surpassed all expectations by finishing fourth in the Italian League and earning the right to play in Europe for the first time.

And so far the "Rossoblu" — after the team's red and blue halved shirts — have acquitted themselves well in the UEFA Cup. Oviedo of Spain and the Romanians of Dinamo and Steaua Bucharest were all brushed aside, and now Genoa must face Liverpool.

"The 1990-91 season was an extraordinary one for us," says the club president, Aldo Spinelli. "But now we have to build on that success.

"That means staying in the top four and doing well in Europe. At the winter break we could be satisfied. We were in the last eight of the UEFA Cup and fifth in the league.

Surprised

"I am proud to have played a part in making the city of Genoa the capital of Italian soccer last year. Our city neighbours, Sampdoria, won the championship and we surprised everyone by coming fourth.

"Sampdoria and Genoa are fierce rivals, but we hope to remain on friendly terms. For example, I joked that if 'Samp' won the title, I would avoid their celebrations by going to a desert island. When they clinched the championship, Sampdoria president Paolo Mantovani paid for a holiday of my choice!"

If Mantovani had not been so generous, it is likely that grateful Genoa fans would have paid for the trip. For Spinelli stubbornly resisted several lucrative offers for Genoese stars last summer.

Imposing . . . Genoa's impressive Luigi Ferraris stadium.

Staying . . . striker Thomas Skuhravy.

Once upon a time Italian giants Milan, Inter, Juventus and Roma would swiftly acquire any promising players from the nation's smaller clubs. Now times are changing and, like Sampdoria, Genoa aim to retain their most prized assets.

During the summer break midfielders Stefano Eranio and Gennaro Ruotolo were wooed by Milan and Juventus respectively, defender Vincenzo Torrente was a Roma target, and Marseille wanted Czech striker Tomas Skuhravy. Yet ultimately all opted to pledge their futures to Genoa.

Indeed Skuhravy has extended his contract with the club until 1996, and says: "When I played at Sparta Prague my dream was to join an Italian club. Now that I am with Genoa, I have no reason to leave.

"The fans are good to me, I get on well with my team-mates and my relationship with the coach, Bagnoli, is good. I would be happy to stay here for life."

But current coach Osvaldo Bagnoli hopes that such regular departures are a thing of the past.

"You do not stay competitive by selling your best players," says Bagnoli. "Our president knows that only too well. We are also aware that some people believe we should have bought one or two new players. But the team functioned very well as a unit last season, and there is still much room for improvement."

Bagnoli is no stranger to turning dreams into reality. In 1984-85 he guided little Verona to the title, and since he arrived at Genoa in 1990 the club have made considerable strides.

The success story is based on a solid defence — marshalled by sweeper Gianluca Signorini — and a tactical system of three couples.

The left flank is occupied by the Brazilian Branco and Roberto Onorati,

CONTINUED OVER

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trophies piled up, the consistency shown by men at the heart of successive Liverpool sides achieved almost mystical dimensions.

For example, they have had virtually three goalkeepers in over a quarter of a century: Lawrence (387 games in all competitions), Clemence (656) and Grobbelaar (500 and rising).

Lawler, at right-back, played 546 matches, missing one League fixture in eight seasons, and was succeeded by Neal . . . who missed one in ten. Callaghan, a first-teamer for 19 seasons, played a record 848 games, including a run of 92 successive cup-ties. Hughes (657 appearances) had 62 successive games in the FA Cup and 75 out of a possible 76 in Europe.

Hunt, although often mercilessly treated by defenders, was amazingly durable. In ten seasons, before a troubled finale, he missed only 32 matches out of 499. He holds the club record of 285 goals, overhauling the great Scot, Billy Liddell — a player of similarly scrupulous fairness.

Behaved

Liddell and Hunt are perhaps the outstanding examples of a Liverpool trait that is worth preserving. The club's successive teams have had their share of hard men, and there have been plenty of untoward incidents, but Liverpool teams are generally well behaved teams: one sending-off in that long European history speaks for itself.

Off the field, too, there is ample discipline, and dirty linen — when it appears — tends to be washed in private. All part of the aura surrounding a great organisation.

Now, times are changing. The Dalglish era brought considerable success, but might have had even more if the man could have done the impossible and found a player as good as he was. His departure last season left club and crowd in turmoil, and only now are the eddies disappearing.

Dalglish, perhaps the most bemedalled player in British history, perpetuated the legend of continuity by mixing frequent — not always successful — signings with established long-servers, in the usual Liverpool style: patience, possession, intricate close movements and sudden long passes to forwards racing free. Plus the fitness and commitment shown by every Liverpool team for 30 years.

One of the Shankly stories tells of his replacement in the Preston side by an unknown youngster, Tommy Docherty, after a decade of selfless devotion at wing-half. Shanks, according to legend, handed the No. 4 jersey to the kid and said: "Here ye are, son. Ye don't need to do anything with that. It runs around on its own." Liverpool players under Shankly, Paisley, Fagan, Dalglish and Moran all ran around on their own, for the common good. And to such effect.

Now Souness has control, still admitting to feeling his way as a manager. His unlimited spending at Rangers helped to bring several honours, but there are large question marks against at least two of his buys since his return to Anfield, and his abrasive style contrasts sharply with the images of Uncle Bob and Grandpa Joe and Cousin Kenny.

The results this season have been oddly mixed, including losses to Finnish amateurs and in the League Cup to Peterborough.

Injuries have not helped — Wright, Rush, Barnes and Whelan all missing for long periods — but there is a strong suspicion that Souness will be spending again before too long as he tries to get the brew to the boil.

He has a long way to go if he is to match those who went before.

1965 Champions' Cup semi-final first leg, Ian Callaghan (left) scores Liverpool's second in a 3-1 win against Inter.

Liverpool

FACT BOX

Address: Anfield Road, Liverpool 4, England.

Capacity: 39,772 (presently under partial reconstruction).

Colours: All red with white flashes.
Change colours: All dark green with white flashes.

Founded: 1892.

Manager: Graeme Souness.

Chief executive: Peter Robinson.

HONOURS:
League Championship (18, record): 1901, 1906, 1922, 1923, 1947, 1964, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990. Runners-up ten times.

Second Division Championship (4): 1894, 1896, 1905, 1962.

FA Cup (4): 1965, 1974, 1986, 1989. Runners-up five times.

League Cup (4): 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984. Runners-up twice.

Champions' Cup (4): 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984. Runners-up once.

UEFA Cup (2): 1973, 1976.

Cup-winners' Cup: Runners-up once.

Charity Shield: Winners eight times, shared four, runners-up four.

THE MANAGER

Graeme SOUNESS.
Aged 38 (born 6 May, 1953).
Following a quartet such as Shankly, Paisley, Fagan and Dalglish is a task to deter almost anybody, but Souness has never lacked confidence.

As a young player he walked out on mighty Spurs because they would not play him in the first team, and went on to serve Liverpool and Scotland wonderfully well as an aggressive but creative midfielder. Also had a spell in Italy, with Sampdoria, before entering management on virtually the highest rung of the ladder, at Rangers. His spending of the club money at Ibrox reached almost obscene levels, while the lack of top opposition in Scotland detracted from the lengthy list of honours won. Returned to Liverpool last April, and judgment remains deferred until he has had longer in the job. But he will not fail on the grounds of commitment.

THE PLAYERS

Bruce GROBBELAAR (right).
Goalkeeper
Aged 34 (Born October 6, 1957).
Much-maligned — possibly because more people see his mistakes, via TV, than those of most competitors — but a fine keeper, superb athlete and genuine entertainer. Service with the armed forces in Zimbabwe included seeing violent death at first hand: his often light-hearted view of soccer is the not surprising outcome. Began with Crewe, joined Liverpool from Vancouver Whitecaps in 1981 for £325,000.

Rob JONES.
Full-back.
Aged 20 (Born 5 November, 1971).
Came from Crewe earlier this season and looks an outstanding prospect according to Souness (who signed him) and many other managers who wish they had done, with rapid elevation to the England squad. Grandson of Liverpool utility player Bill Jones, who won two caps, after winning the Military Medal against Germany.

Steve NICOL.
Utility player.
Aged 30 (Born 11 December, 1961).
Admirable exponent of the modern all-purpose game, equally comfortable in back four or midfield. Signed from Ayr in October 1981 for a bargain £300,000, and after a typical Anfield development course broke through to become one of the club's mainstays. Scottish international, Footballer of the Year in 1989.

David BURROWS.
Full-back.
Aged 23 (Born 25 October, 1968).
From Dudley, birthplace of Duncan Edwards. Started with West Bromwich and had played only 50 senior games when signing for Liverpool three years ago. Under-21 international.

Barry VENISON.
Defender.
Aged 27 (Born 16 August, 1964).
Youngest captain in Wembley history when he led Sunderland in the 1985 League Cup Final. Made more than 200 appearances for the club before joining Liverpool in 1986. Useful squad member whose progress has not followed the rising curve indicated by his early days.

Nicky TANNER.
Central defender.
Aged 26 (Born 24 May, 1965).
Born in Bristol and found by Bristol Rovers in the Western League. Had been in and around their team for four years when Liverpool — as so often, seeing something others missed — took him to Anfield. Needed time to settle and had loan spells at Norwich and Swindon before settling in.

Mark WRIGHT.
Central defender.
Aged 28 (Born 1 August, 1963).
Moving back towards his best after an injury caused him to miss half of this his first season since his £2.6 million move from Derby. Splendidly sized and shaped for his job, and has won 40 England caps. Missed the 1986 World Cup finals after breaking a leg in an FA Cup semi-final playing for Southampton . . . against Liverpool.

Jan MOLBY.
Midfielder.
Aged 29 (Born 4 July, 1963).
The Scouse Viking, reviving a career that looked virtually doomed after a three-month jail term for driving offences. Born in Denmark and played for Ajax in Holland. Signed for Liverpool in 1984 and despite his bulk continues to show remarkable deftness on the ball, in midfield or as an occaisonal sweeper.

Ronnie WHELAN.
Midfielder.
Aged 30 (Born 25 September, 1961).
Yet another from the seemingly endless production line at Home Farm, Dublin. Went to Anfield in October 1979, waited 18 months for his senior debut, then had several splendid years as a perceptive passer with a flair for spectacular goals. Has won 41 caps for the Republic, and has missed several more through injuries. Now recovering from a fractured shin.

Ray HOUGHTON.
Midfielder.
Aged 30 (Born 9 January, 1962).
Born in Glasgow of Irish descent, hence his opting for the Republic when the time came to try the international waters. Had half a game for West Ham, did well at Fulham and did even better at Oxford, helping them to win the League Cup in 1986. In the following year he cost Liverpool £825,000. All-action midfielder, notably calm in scoring situations.

Jamie REDKNAPP.
Midfielder.
Aged 18 (Born 25 June, 1973).
Went from school to Bournemouth, where father Harry was manager, and to Liverpool in January last year for £350,000, the British record for a 17-year-old.

Michael THOMAS.
Midfielder.
Aged 24 (Born 24 August, 1967).
Signed from Arsenal in a £1.5 million deal late last year. Reputed to have trebled his wages by moving, and promptly earned official displeasure at earning more by criticising his former manager, George Graham in a newspaper article. As the man whose last-minute goal in the last match of 1988-89 cost Liverpool the championship, he has a lot to live down. Two England caps.

Mark WALTERS.
Forward.
Aged 27 (Born 2 June, 1964).
Another curious Souness signing, first from Aston Villa for Rangers, then for Liverpool. Talented but inconsistent and injury prone (he played 30 League games for Rangers last season and finished 19 of them). His middle name is Everton.

John BARNES.
Forward.
Aged 28 (Born 7 November, 1963).
Son of a Jamaican international — soccer, not cricket — and played his formative football with a minor club near Wembley. Has since graced that ground and many more with his elegant skill and scoring ability, while frequently infuriating through his apparent lack of resolution and waywardness. Twice Footballer of the Year, and club and country need his sublime best: all too often they do not get it. Had scored only ten goals in 65 internationals during an eight-year England career.

Ian RUSH.
Forward.
Aged 30 (Born 20 October, 1961).
Would have been a fine footballer even if he had never scored in his life: vision, pace, a sharp tackle. But above all, a great finisher, likely to become Liverpool's all-time top scorer. He began this season on 261 goals in the chase for Roger Hunt's 285, and includes six in major finals — a record — in his total. Capped for Wales at four levels. A season in Italy, with Juventus paying £3.2 million, brought him little success, but valuable experience.

Steven McMANAMAN.
Forward.
Aged 19 (Born 11 February, 1972).
Lanky local product who made history in December 1990 when he played for England against Wales in an Under-21 game before making his League debut. Has done well this season.

Mike MARSH.
Forward.
Aged 21 (Born 21 July 1969).
Adept, solid utility forward or midfielder who helped out during the early-season injury crisis.

Ronny ROSENTHAL.
Forward.
Aged 28 (Born 11 October, 1963).
Israeli international striker who reached Liverpool via Standard Liege and scored seven goals in the last seven games of 1989-90, virtually clinching the title on his own. Few opportunities since.

Dean SAUNDERS.
Forward.
Aged 27 (Born 21 June, 1964).
Holder of two records: the £2.9 million Liverpool gave Derby for him last July is the highest fee ever paid by one English club to another, and all his five previous clubs (Swansea, Cardiff on loan, Brighton, Oxford and Derby) were relegated while he was with them. Son of a former Liverpool half-back, a smallish but sharp striker with a good goals-to-games ratio.

Continued from previous page

Stefano Eranio and the busy Gennaro Ruotolo combine on the right, and Uruguayan Carlos Aguilera links with Skuhravy as the strike force. Aguilera provides the movement and guile, and dovetails splendidly with the more physical Skuhravy.

The one cloud on the horizon, however, is represented by Aguilera's recent brush with the Italian law. He has been charged with drugs offences, and his future must be in some doubt.

Genoa are Italy's oldest club. A group of British expatriates founded the Genoa Cricket and Athletic Club in September 1893, but the organisation's success was to be on the football pitch. They were among the four clubs to take part in Italy's first championship in 1898. This was not the nine-month marathon of today, but a tournament held on one day in Turin. Genoa, containing four Britons, beat Internazionale 2-1 in the final.

Genoa's 1955-56 Championship-winning side.

In the following year the club changed the name to Genoa FC, and went on to add further titles in 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1915, 1923 and 1924.

In 1929 the Fascist regime ordered the club to change the name to the Italian-style Genova, and in 1937 the team won their first and only Italian Cup title.

With the end of the Second World War, the club reverted to the name of Genoa, but success proved elusive. The side of the post-war period could achieve no more than regular journeys between the First and Second divisions.

Indeed in 1988 Genoa went perilously close to sliding into the Third, and that summer Sicilian Franco Scoglio was appointed first-team coach and in his first season Genoa won promotion as Second Division champions.

Scoglio was fired after a row with president Spinelli in 1990 and replaced by Bagnoli. But the latter is well aware that he owes much to Scoglio.

"Franco did some great work here," says Bagnoli. "After all, six of his promotion side of 1988-89 are still here.

"Scoglio put Genoa back on the rails after years of disappointment and taught them to win again."

Juventus keeper Giaccone saves from Genoa's Sardi (jumping) in 1902.

Genoa

FACT BOX

Address: Via Roma 7/3, 16121 Genova.

Stadium: Luigi Ferraris.

Capacity: 43,646.

Colours: Red and dark blue halved shirts, dark blue shorts with red trim, dark blue socks with red trim.

Founded: 1893.

President: Aldo Spinelli.

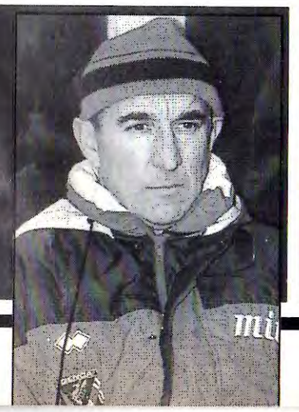
Coach: Osvaldo Bagnoli.

HONOURS:
League Champions (9): 1898, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1915, 1923, 1924.

Italian Cup: 1937.

THE COACH

Osvaldo BAGNOLI.
Aged 56 (born July 3, 1935).
The Milan-born Bagnoli played for Milan, Verona, Udinese, Catanzaro, Spal and Verbonia, then coached the youngsters at Como and in 1973 was appointed manager of Third Division Solbiatese. In the following year he returned to Como to supervise the youth team, and eventually became first-team manager. Then followed spells as coach of Rimini, Fano and Cesena, and in 1981 he moved to Verona. Within a year, he led the club to promotion as Second Division champions, and in 1985 Verona won their first and only League title. The team were relegated in 1990 and he was sacked. Then took over at Genoa and steered the club to fourth place and a UEFA Cup place.



THE PLAYERS

Simone BRAGLIA.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 29 (born July 22, 1962).
The much-travelled Braglia replaced Attilio Gregori as Genoa's keeper during the 1989-90 season and has not looked back. A late developer who played for Como, Legnano, Pavia, Sambene-dettese, Lecce and Monza before moving to Genoa in 1989.

Gianluca BERTI.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 24 (born May 20, 1967).
Reserve signed from fourth division Olbia last year.

Vincenzo TORRENTE.
Defender.
Aged 26 (born February 12, 1966).
Right-back, considered by many to be on the verge of an international cap. One of Genoa's most consistent performers last season and a tenacious man-marker who arrived from Nocerina in 1985.

Nicola CARICOLA.
Defender.
Aged 29 (born February 13), 1963).
Went to Genoa in 1987 after four seasons at Juventus. Began his career at Bari.

Gianluca SIGNORINI.
Defender.
Aged 31 (born March 17, 1960).
Authoritative and muscular sweeper, the key figure in the team's defensive system. Made his name with Parma in the mid-1980s when his coach was the present Italy manager, Arrigo Sacchi. Moved to Roma in 1987, but could not settle in the capital and signed for Genoa a year later.

BRANCO (vaz Leal Claudio Ibrahim).
Defender/Midfield.
Aged 27 (born April 4, 1964).
Brazilian international famous for his power at free-kicks. Coach Bagnoli gives him total freedom to roam up and down the left flank. Formerly with Fluminense of Rio, Brescia and FC Porto in Portugal. Moved to Genoa in November 1990.

Fulvio COLLOVATI
Defender.
Aged 34 (born May 9, 1957).
Veteran, uncompromising stopper who won 50 caps and was a member of the 1982 World Cup winners. Spent the bulk of his career with Milan and Inter, and joined Genoa in 1989 via short spells at Udinese and Roma.

Andrea FORTUNATO.
Defender.
Aged 20 (born July 26, 1971).
Promising youngster signed from Como in the close season.

Armando FERRONI.
Defender.
Aged 30 (born April 3, 1961).
Experienced Rome-born full-back, previously with Fioreninta and Avellino.

Stefano ERANIO.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born December 29, 1966).
Nearly moved to Milan last summer, but eventually stayed. A product of the Genoese youth ranks, nearing 200 League appearances. Made his full debut for Italy against Cyprus in December 1990.

Robert ONORATI.
Midfield.
Aged 26 (born February 5, 1966).
Left-sided midfielder who links up well with Branco. Lacks pace, but compensates with superb vision and passing ability. Formerly with Pistoiese, Fiorentina and Avellino.

Gennaro RUOTOLO.
Midfield.
Aged 24 (born March 20, 1967).
Dynamic midfielder who loves to break from deep into the opposing penalty area. Joined Genoa in 1988 after spells at Sorrento and Arezzo.

Valeriano FIORIN.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born September 27, 1966).
Dependable midfield back-up, signed from Parma two years ago.

Mario BORTOLAZZI.
Midfield.
Aged 27 (born January 10, 1965).
Elegant playmaker with his seventh club in 12 years. His most treasured memory is helping Milan to the League title in 1988. He was off-loaded to Verona that summer. Began his career with Mantova in 1980, and played for Fiorentina, Parma and Atalanta before going to Genoa in 1990.

Tomas SKUHRAVY.
Forward.
Aged 26 (born September 7, 1965).
Scored 15 goals last season for Genoa, and has settled remarkably well since his transfer from Sparta Prague in the summer of 1990. Powerful in the air and surprisingly skilful with the ball. Scorer of five goals for the Czechs at Italia '90, and has extended his contract with Genoa until 1996.

Marco PACIONE.
Forward.
Aged 28 (born July 27, 1963).
A notorious figure for Juventus fans, who still blame him for the club's defeat by Barcelona in the 1986 Champions' Cup semi-final. Missed several chances, and two months later was sold to Verona. Has also played for Atalanta and Torino.

Carlos AGUILERA (left).
Forward.
Aged 27 (born September 21, 1964).
Uruguayan international since 17, small, lively and an outstanding finisher. Has played for Uruguayan clubs Nacional and Penarol, River Plate and Racing Club of Argentina, Independiente of Colombia and Guadalajara in Mexico. Joined Genoa in 1989.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

ALL CHANGE FOR SPARTA

BY GRAHAM **TURNER**

AT 39, Zdenek Nehoda (above) still looks trim enough to skipper the Czechoslovakian national team, just as he did during the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

But just as you're thinking nothing has changed, something says "Hey! wait a minute. What's he doing in the Letna stadium?"

Nehoda always was a Dukla man, and it seems strange to find him on the other side of Prague planning and plotting in the boardroom with the Sparta president, Vaclav Masek.

SEMI-FINALS

Group A:
Anderlecht 0 v 0 Panathinaikos
Sampdoria 2 v 0 Red Star Belgrade
Panathinaikos 0 v 0 Sampdoria
Red Star Belgrade 3 v 2 Anderlecht

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sampdoria	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Panathinaikos	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Red Star	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

NEXT FIXTURES
March 4:
Panathinaikos v Red Star Belgrade
Anderlecht v Sampdoria.
March 18:
Red Star Belgrade v Panathinaikos
Sampdoria v Anderlecht.

Group B:
Barcelona 3 v 2 Sparta Prague
Kiev Dynamo 1 v 0 Benfica
Benfica 0 v 0 Barcelona
Sparta Prague 2 v 1 Kiev Dynamo

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Sparta Prague	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Kiev Dynamo	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Benfica	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

NEXT FIXTURES
March 4:
Benfica v Sparta Prague
Kiev Dynamo v Barcelona.
March 18:
Sparta Prague v Benfica
Barcelona v Kiev Dynamo.

Sampdoria's Cerezo beats Red Star's Radinovic.

Mantovani . . . Mr. Sampdoria.

Boskov sees this as the decider

ITALIAN champions Sampdoria are a living reminder of the old adage about the difficulties of winning a championship title — the problems come afterwards.

Most of Europe knows that Sampdoria went through an early autumn period when they could not play their way out of a wet paper bag.

Now, unfortunately for their direct Champions' Cup Group A rivals — Anderlecht, Panathinaikos and Red Star Belgrade — the period of decline and fall has given way to one of resurgence.

In an unbeaten eight-game run through December and January, Sampdoria picked up 12 points, to blast themselves from relegation to the UEFA Cup placings in the table and to underline that past triumphs were no fluke, and their European future looked bright.

With the League title most definitely relinquished, Sampdoria now have only the Champions' Cup to focus on. So much the worse for their opponents.

Impressive wins against Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio made us wonder why things went so badly wrong at the beginning of the season.

Sampdoria's coach, the Serb Vujadin Boskov (left), and captain Roberto Mancini, have no doubts about the problem — conceit and too much basking in last season's glory.

Celebrations

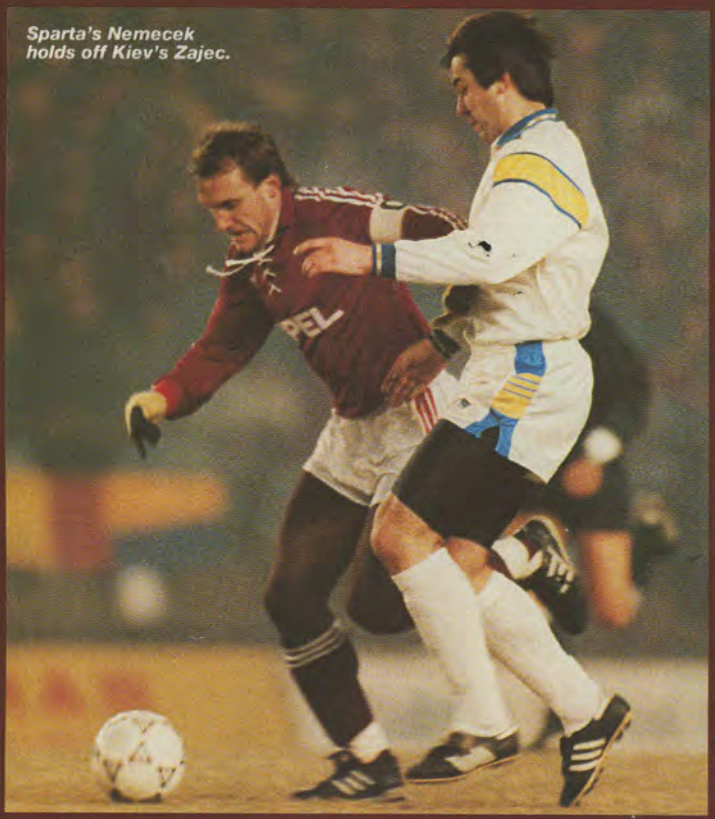
Apart from a summer of celebrations, though, there are technical considerations relative to the early crisis. In our seasonal preview, we questioned the wisdom of Sampdoria's limited transfer activities.

Not only did the retention of the evergreen Brazilian Cerezo seem an unlikely triumph of sentiment over logic, but the signing of his compatriot Silas from Cesena did not seem like a title-winning move.

As the season has progressed, Silas has failed to establish himself as a dominant midfield presence, while even Cerezo is beginning to look his years. While he is on the pitch, Cerezo remains fundamental, but these days he can only last an hour, at best.

On top of these problems, Sampdoria had a series of early injuries (a belated stress factor caused by that title win?) to key players such as Yugoslav midfielder Srecko Katanec, defenders Marco Lanna and Moreno Mannini, and strikers Roberto Mancini and Gianluca Vialli.

For reasons of age and club politics, two heroes of the past, sweeper Luca Pellegrini and midfielder Giuseppe Dossena, packed their bags and headed for Verona and Third Division Perugia respectively.



Sparta's Nemecek holds off Kiev's Zajec.

After a brief spell as general manager at Dukla, Masek thought Nehoda the ideal man to help Sparta through a potentially painful process of switching the club on to capitalist tracks.

"If I'm not fat it's because I'm too busy!" laughs Nehoda.

"This is an enormous job. There are so many changes to be made.

"For a start, there's the question of playing staff. After the World Cup finals in Italy we lost a whole team — 12 players to be precise. Now our policy has changed.

"Our aim now is to buy and to strengthen the team, looking not only at players in this country, but also foreigners.

"We can offer them interesting terms, but the important thing is whether they are interested in living in Czechoslovakia. Our experience with Steve Trittschuh from the United States taught us lessons.

"He was a model pro and an example to our youngsters, but we made the mistake of importing a player who operated in a position we had well covered with local talent. So he ended up not playing regularly.

"At least we now control our own buying and selling, whereas everything used to be done through the Federation. We can now set our own transfer fees and our own wages, and we are allowed a maximum of three foreigners.

"The problem, of course, is when one starts to make comparisons between the wages here and wages in Germany or Spain. We can pay ten times the average working man's wage, which allows our players to live very well indeed in Prague."

The problem is that the average wage is currently just under £20 per week.

Nehoda continues: "The whole economy of the club has had to be revised and in that respect qualifying for the mini-league phase of the Champions' Cup has been providential.

"At the beginning of the season we were working on an annual budget of £550,000 and assuming we wouldn't get past Rangers in the first round."

Candidate

At this point, president Masek, who works as director of the Patents Office in Prague, chips in. He was a Sparta player for 15 years and represented Czechoslovakia in the 1962 World Cup finals. What's more, he never expected to be elected president.

"Possibly I won because the other major candidate was 73," he says. "I am 23 years younger and perhaps people thought I would be able to adapt more easily to a vastly-changed set of circumstances. But my most difficult task to date has been to separate Sparta's football from the other 14 loss-making sports. You can imagine how the other sports fought to avoid us becoming independent."

Nehoda says: "The other major step was signing the sponsorship contract with Opel/General Motors. In October we extended the agreement until 1994 and broadened its horizons.

"For example when we played our European fixture in Barcelona, the ticket price of £50 was beyond the reach of our fans. So we asked our sponsor to help and a group of supporters was given financial help and was able to travel to Spain with us. These details are important."

In the meantime, Masek, Nehoda and company have been trying to find a compromise between Czechoslovakian and Western financial parameters.

"Our usual prices for league games range from 27 pence to 45," says Nehoda. "We have to charge more for European games, but not everybody likes it."

There was a public outcry when tickets for the Rangers game were put on sale and only 11,053 fans agreed to pay rates varying between 78p and £2.20. Over 35,000 paid up to watch the epic victory over Marseille but rates for the 2-1 victory over Kiev Dynamo were reduced to between 72p and £1.90.

"This is why finding our economic feet is so important," says Zdenek Nehoda. "It's only a year since we were able to offer our first progressional contracts to our players and establish a relationship with a sponsor.

"This sort of thing is new. Everything is new in Czechoslovakia."

Commanding . . . Sparta defender Jiri Novotny.

All this meant that, until they beat a dreadful Red Star 2-0 in their first group match in Genoa last November, Sampdoria could do nothing right. That win was the turning point.

Confidence returned, talk of crisis ceased, and Sampdoria set off on the eight-match unbeaten run referred to above. As always in soccer, there's nothing like a little success to help you become successful.

Convinced

After that initial European win against Red Star and an away draw against Panathinaikos, Sampdoria lead their group going into a March fortnight in which they play Belgian league leaders Anderlecht twice, just as in the old days of quarter-finals.

Coach Boskov is convinced that these two games will decide the entire group, because he considers the Belgian champions to be his biggest rivals.

This month also may decide Boskov's own future, because he is widely believed to have a verbal agreement with club president Paolo Mantovani to stay at "Samp" next year only if he wins the European title this season.

Boskov is reluctant to discuss the issue and will only say: "I'm a Sampdoria employee, that is an employee of Mantovani because Sampdoria is Mantovani. We all know that. I can only say yes or no to him. In the end, he decides."

Boskov, however, has been willing to clear up speculation concerning himself and Bayern Munich. The Germans offered him the coach's job but only, he claims because they had heard the speculation that he would be leaving Sampdoria at the end of the season.

"I told them that I could not answer them, because I'm still the Sampdoria coach." he said.

Further speculation names Benfica's Swedish coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, as the replacement for Boskov. So far Eriksson, who managed both AS Roma and Fiorentina, has been reticent on the subject, saying that he is happy with Benfica. Watch this space.

In the meantime, success against Anderlecht could make all such talk redundant. It could yet be that Boskov and Eriksson will clash head on in the final — Benfica v Sampdoria. If Sampdoria were to win that, it would be difficult to sack Boskov and replace him with the man he had just beaten.

Difficult, even for an Italian club.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Werder Bremen v Galatasaray
AS Roma v Monaco
Atletico Madrid v Club Brugge
Feyenoord v Tottenham Hotspur

First legs to be played March 4, returns on March 18.

Voller . . . no longer plays like five men rolled into one.

Bianchi . . . has worked wonders.

SO MUCH DEPENDS ON VOLLER

ROMA'S success story was one of the great wonders of the 1990-91 Italian season.

The reached the UEFA Cup Final, losing to Internazionale, then beat newly-crowned champions Sampdoria in the Italian Cup Final.

You might suggest that an Italian Cup victory hardly represents a "highly successful" season. In the circumstances, though, Roma did more than well, because during the year the club not only lost their legendary President Dino Viola (died in January 1991) but also two first-choice players, striker Andrea Carnevale and goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, who were banned for a year after failing dope tests.

The UEFA and Italian Cup runs were all the more surprising because, as those of us who see Roma regularly can testify, last season's side were only ordinary.

Two factors more than anything else saved the Roma season. German striker Rudi Voller continued to represent, all on his own, at least half the side's attacking potential. Secondly, coach Ottavio Bianchi worked wonders, making team organisation compensate for sheer lack of class.

This season has not gone so well, but that is understandable. The problems of a far from brilliant transfer campaign have been worsened by Voller's loss of form.

President Giuseppe Ciarrapico, the "Mineral Water King" who bought the club last May, has so far proved an absentee landlord. And Roma are in the bottom half of the table behind Lazio, their bitter local rivals.

As Lazio's attempt to buy Paul Gascoigne illustrated, Roma are now No. 2 in the capital.

Voller, hero of so many fine performances, has finally and inevitably returned to normality. No longer does he play like five men rolled into one.

Early-season injuries did not help, while the media continue to suggest that an unsettled private life has contributed to performances below his usual standards.

Ciarrapico, who has never concealed his lack of soccer expertise, finally indicated that his presidency was in dire straits when sacking club manager Gianni Petrucci in December.

Petrucci, who left with a golden handshake reputedly worth than more £100,000, had been recommended eight months ago by the Italian Federation's president, Antonio Mataresse, and had moved to Roma from his job as general secretary of the federation.

Petrucci's summary dismissal was soon followed by rumours that Roma's standard-bearer, midfielder Giuseppe Giannini, was up for sale.

Internazionale and Juventus were allegedly interested, and the move to sell Giannini came as little surprise.

He has never been rated by coach Bianchi, who prefers his midfielders (unless they are called Maradona, with whom Bianchi won a League title at Napoli) to work and fight harder than the skilful but sometimes inconsistent Giannini. He has had injury troubles this season, too.

Bianchi has not escaped critical director and fan attention. One section of Ciarrapico's advisers tried to have him sacked, while the fans have formally protested about him. Bianchi, not apparently a man given to huge self-doubt, works on regardless.

Confident

He is confident in the knowledge that if Roma do show him the door sooner or later, then several big names might be ready to offer him a job.

Add to the above selection of woes the fact that club's main summer purchase, German Thomas Hassler from Juventus, has so far failed to replace the club's biggest sale of the summer, Stefano Desideri to Inter, and you have an AS Roma outfit going into their Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final with Monaco on a definite downer. Monaco to win, then?

Not so fast. Just remember the same Roma went into nearly every Italian and UEFA Cup match last season on an equally crisis-ridden note. Monaco have been warned.

PADDY **AGNEW**

Shreeves . . . he is not happy.

TOTTENHAM Hotspur have a reputation for being a "good cup side."

Which is just as well for Spurs' supporters. Cup competitions offer Spurs the only hope of relief in another grim League season.

In the First Division Spurs have been at best inconsistent and disappointing — at worst downright dreadful.

At the time of writing, Spurs had played 27 League games and were 12th in the table. Of those 27 matches, only 10 were victories, 13 were defeats and eight of those 13 defeats came at home — a dismal record which has left the club's fans in unhappy mood.

After the latest home defeat, 1-0 to Crystal Palace, the fans were calling for the board to dismiss manager Peter Shreeves.

"I understand their reaction," said Shreeves, "I pick the team and I am responsible for results — and they haven't been good.

"I'm not happy with the situation where some players seem to be choosing the games to get up for. That is not in any way acceptable." That statement gives a clearer summary of the problems within the Spurs camp at the moment — they are not playing as a team in the League, and only seem to be able to raise their game for cup ties.

Shreeves' words confirm a view widely held on the terraces at White Hart Lane, that the players appear to have simply given up in the League and are merely concentrating on cup competitions.

A worrying thought bearing in mind the frail financial position of the club and the fact that a large chunk of the revenue comes from League match receipts.

The danger for the Spurs board is that, if the side go out of the cup competitions too, the fans, like the players, may start picking and choosing which games they bother to attend.

Despite their inconsistent League form, however, Spurs continue to do well in cups.

Their hopes of retaining the FA Cup, as they had done in 1962 and 1982, were destroyed in the third round when they lost a replay to Aston Villa — their ninth home defeat, just two short of their worst home record.

But Spurs were at least within sight of another Wembley final in the Rumbelows Cup.

Swansea and Grimsby were easily defeated in the earlier rounds, before Spurs overcame difficult ties with Coventry (away) and Norwich (home) to set up a semi-final meeting with Nottingham Forest, their FA Cup final opponents last season.

A 1-1 draw in the first leg in Nottingham puts Spurs in with a good chance of making the final — if they can avoid losing at home.

There is also the Cup-winners' Cup, and a quarter-final with familiar rivals Feyenoord to look forward to. Spurs have met the Dutch giants, currently second in their domestic league, three times in European football — winning twice but losing the 1974 UEFA Cup Final on a 4-2 aggregate to a side inspired by Rijsbergen, Israel and Jansen.

Spurs will need to be on form to beat Feyenoord, who will be captained by former Spurs centre-back Johnny Metgod and inspired by young winger Gaston Taument and Romanian midfielder Ioan Sabau.

Capable

Spurs, however, have already shown this season that when it comes to a midweek European tie, they are capable of raising their game a few gears — as they did in the earlier rounds when disposing of the resilient Hajduk Split and more significantly Portugal's champions elect, FC Porto.

Feyenoord, like Spurs, are a club with a great history emerging from a period of decline. Their problems have mostly been on the pitch itself, while Spurs' problems have largely been off it.

The club, under Irving Scholar, had run into debt and at one point seemed in danger of going bust. Then manager Terry Venables took over as managing director and called in Alan Sugar — the millionaire boss of computer giants Amstrad.

Between them they have transformed the club's finances and put them in the black for the first time in years.

Money was even made available for the signing of Scotland striker Gordon Durie from Chelsea last summer, for a club record fee of £2.2million.

But now Durie, along with several of his team-mates, seems unsettled and could leave the club.

Gascoigne and Lineker are likely to be leaving this summer and could be joined by Durie, David Howells, Steve Sedgley, Gudni Bergsson and perhaps even club captain Gary Mabbutt.

That would mean a huge rebuilding job for Shreeves, with precious little money to do it.

Players believed to be on Spurs' shopping list include Portsmouth's young striker Darren Anderton, Crystal Palace and England's Andy Gray, Everton's Tony Cottee and Chelsea's Irish midfielder Andy Townsend.

But for now, Shreeves will be concentrating on getting his side past Feyenoord and one step closer to their fifth European final.

The irony for Shreeves and Venables is that, just as the club get their finances sorted out, the team begin to disintegrate and their long-suffering fans finally begin to run out of patience.

They can hardly be blamed after the limp performances Spurs have given in the League this season, but victory in Europe would be more than enough to put a smile back on their faces and have them queuing for season tickets again next August.

JOHN **KELLY**

Durie (No. 8) . . . scoring against Porto in the second round of the Cup-winners' Cup at White Hart Lane earlier this season.

Europe or bust for Spurs

Chivers and De Jong in opposition during the 1974 UEFA Cup Final.

UEFA CUP

QUARTER-FINALS

Torino v B1903 Copenhagen
Sigma Olomouc v Real Madrid
Genoa v Liverpool
Ghent v Ajax

First legs to be played March 4, returns on March 18.

Victory . . . Scifo (centre), Cravero and Annoni celebrate their win against AEK Athens.

FOR Torino's foreigners, midfielders Rafael Martin Vazquez of Spain and Enzo Scifo of Belgium, the UEFA Cup-tie against B1903 Copenhagen comes at a critical moment.

For Scifo, it could mean the stepping stone to a bigger, more ambitious club. For Vazquez, it could mean an extended Torino contract.

The odd couple hold the key

With fourth-placed Torino to all effects out of the championship contest, the UEFA Cup is top priority for Turin's second club.

A run to the final might well silence those critics who wish to sack the Spaniard. Such a run, on the other hand, would only draw more attention to Scifo's undoubted merits.

The reality about these two is that, whereas for Scifo things have gone well in his first Torino season, Vazquez still has his critics after 18 months in Italy.

One goal and 24 League appearances in an injury-affected first year was a bad start, something the player himself knows only too well: "I've heard all kinds of criticisms, even that I'm gay," he says.

"The fact is that when I arrived at Torino, the club knew very well exactly what I could and could not do and that I was not a goalscorer. In my last year with Real Madrid, true, I scored 14 goals but that was because I was playing in a forward position with no defensive duties.

"Both this year and last with Torino, I have been playing in a very different position."

Vazquez and coach Emilio Mondonico have never quite seen eye to eye.

Mondonico on one famous occasion publically criticised Vazquez after a poor performance, adding that the "boy" still had a lot to learn. Spanish pride was most definitely dented.

Vazquez, however, argues that he owes Torino nothing and is hopeful that a good UEFA Cup run will silence talk of a move to clubs such as Marseille, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Tottenham and Internazionale.

Opportunity

"If I should leave Torino this summer I will do so with a clear conscience because I have always done my utmost for the team," he says.

"In the meantime, we have a great opportunity of winning the UEFA Cup and we mustn't let the chance slip away."

In contrast to Vazquez, Belgian Scifo is under no club pressure. Torino's major problem with Scifo will not be how to get rid of him but rather how to hold on to him.

Four years after his first, frankly disappointing Italian experience with Internazionale, Scifo has returned and taken revenge.

He has been one of the definite success stories of the season, at the centre of almost everything good done by Torino and capable of doing it with a style which has won sincere praise.

Gianni Agnelli, the Juventus president, has more than once committed sacrilege by going to watch Torino play in his home town and, on each occasion, he was attracted by the thought of watching the dazzling Scifo.

When Michel Platini last year said that Scifo was the only player currently in circulation who might be considered his heir, most Italian commentators though the French coach had lost his marbles.

Now commentators and Torino fans have been convinced, but Scifo, wary of past experiences, is more cautious: "I don't want to repeat my mistakes with Inter four years ago," he says. "Then I thought that my class was more important than anything else.

"Now, I'm one of the side, the one who earns most and who should give his all to the team."

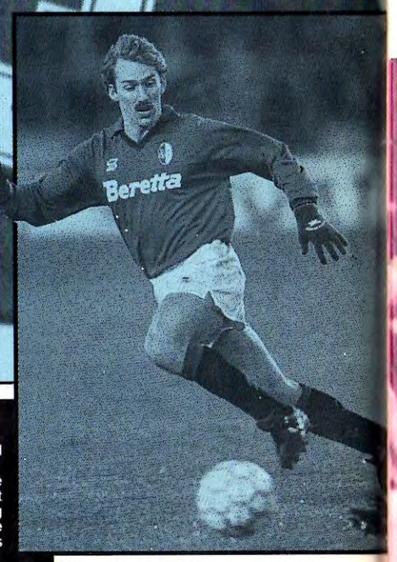
With regard to Vazquez, who not surprisingly has looked a better player since Scifo's arrival, the Belgian dismisses talk of rivalry.

"Myself and Vazquez have different duties in the team, in different positions. I'm more central and deeper, whereas he is usually on the left and moving forward."

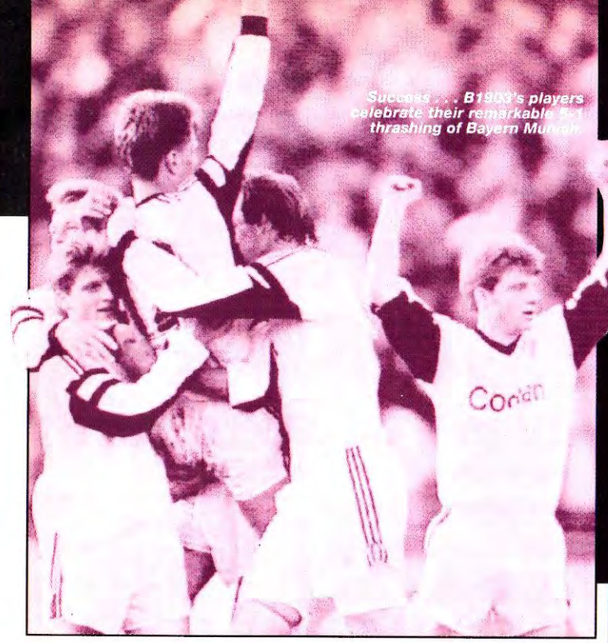
Looking forward both the UEFA Cup and the rest of the season, Scifo (born in Belgium but of Sicilian parents and an Italian speaker) has one strange wish for himself: "I would finally like to no longer feel myself a foreigner in Italy. In Belgium, everyone considered me Italian. In Italy, I'm considered Belgian, and in France I was Italo-Belgian.

"The truth is that I consider myself Belgian in soccer terms but Italian by culture."

PADDY **AGNEW**

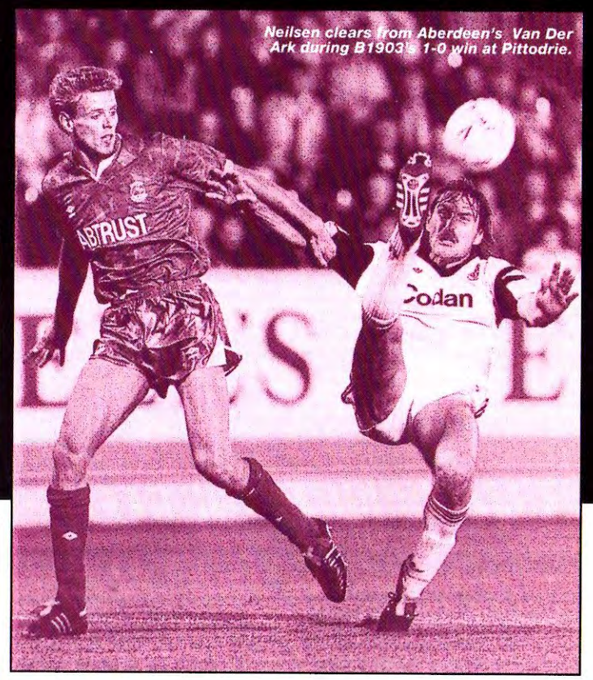


Vasquez . . . still being criticised.



Success . . . B1903's players celebrate their remarkable 6-1 thrashing of Bayern Munich.

FINAL FLOURISH FOR B1903



Neilsen clears from Aberdeen's Van Der Ark during B1903's 1-0 win at Pittodrie.

RARELY, if ever, can there have been such an astonishing story as B1903's assault on European soccer glory.

Just three months before the club voluntarily folds up after an 89-year history it is all set for its biggest game — against Torino in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals.

In June B1903 will merge with another famous old Danish club KB to form the brand new FC Kobenhavn which they hope will overtake Brondby as the country's major club.

Ironically, if B1903 do upset the odds to overcome Torino, they will have matched Brondby's achievement last year in reaching the semi-finals of the competition. But success has brought no second thoughts about merger, because wealthy president Alex Friedmann, whose cash has sparked the club's resurgence, says he can spend no more in deference to his heirs.

The new Copenhagen super club will play in the newly refurbished Idraetsparken national stadium which opens this Autumn.

But the home leg against Torino will be played in the tiny Gentofte Stadium with a capacity of just 13,000.

There is unlikely to be a repeat of the firework incident which marred the third round victory over Turkish club Trabzonspor.

But the chances of beating Torino are less sure.

Certainly, no club which can beat Bayern Munich 6-1 at home will be dismissed lightly. But it will take a remarkable effort from the combination of international veterans and bright young sparks which make up the B1903 side.

In defender Ivan Nielsen they have a Champions' Cup-winner and one of the best centre-backs of the last decade.

Striker Michael Manniche proved his worth with four prodigious seasons at Benfica and skipper Pierre Larsen played 17 times for Denmark in his heyday.

With goalkeeper Palle Petersen suspended after being sent off in the last round, the club have drafted in another international veteran, 38-year-old Ole Kjaer from Second Division Esbjerg, as emergency cover.

It was Kjaer's brilliance which helped Denmark to their famous victory over England at Wembley in 1983. However, the team's chances may depend more on how the young stars react to the high-pressure situation of a Euroropean quarter-final.

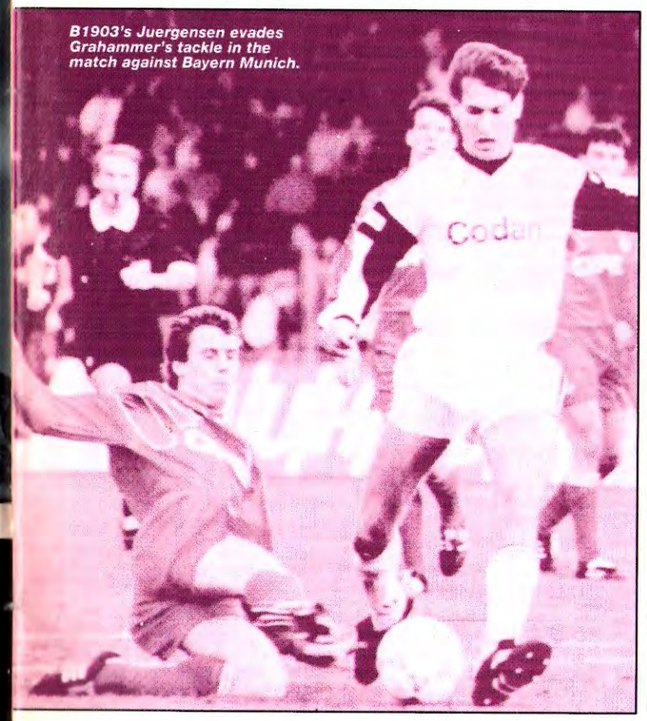
The talent of teenage twins Martin and Michael Johansen is undoubted.

Their temperament has yet to be fully tested.

Much will also depend on libero Kenneth Wegner, newly promoted to the national squad, but who failed miserably in a spell with Charlton in England. But perhaps the severest problem they face is that B1903 have not played a competitive match since November with the winter shutdown.

As so many eastern European sides have found in the past, rustiness at the quarter-final stage has proved beyond repair.

JIM **HOLDEN**



B1903's Juergensen evades Grahammer's tackle in the match against Bayern Munich.

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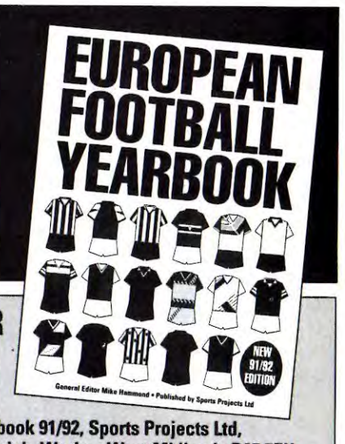

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Garry Lineker's Hotshots	3.99	3.99	3.99
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Jimmy's Soccer Manager NEW	3.99	3.99	3.99
Kenny Dalglish Soccer Manager	2.99	2.99	2.99
Kenny Dalglish Soccer Match	2.99	N/A	N/A
Kick Off	3.99	3.99	3.99
League Football NEW	3.99	3.99	3.99
The Manager	2.99	N/A	2.99
The Match	3.99	3.99	3.99
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On The Bench	3.99	3.99	3.99
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Soccer Challenge	2.99	N/A	2.99
Soccer Director	2.99	2.99	2.99
Soccer Match NEW	3.99	3.99	3.99
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Kick Off 2 NEW PRICE	3.99	3.99	3.99	N/A
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	SP	CO	AMS	DISC
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Grid Iron 2	2.99	2.99	2.99	
HyperspORTS	3.99	3.99	3.99	
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Kick Off 2 Winning Tactics	7.99	7.99
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Striker Manager	17.50	17.50
Tracksuit Manager	7.99	7.99

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Rugby Coach	17.50	17.50
Rugby World Cup	17.50	N/A
Sporting Triangles	13.99	13.99
Steve Davis Snooker	9.99	9.99
Tip Off Basketball	17.50	17.50
Ultimate Golf NEW PRICE	9.99	9.99
World Class Leaderboard	7.99	7.99
World Class Rugby	N/A	17.50
World Cricket NEW	7.99	7.99
WWF Wrestlemania NEW	17.50	17.50

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As a strong indication of the phenomenal growth of youth soccer in the United States WORLD SOCCER is proud to announce an exciting sponsorship association with the famous and prestigious American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII International Youth Tournament.

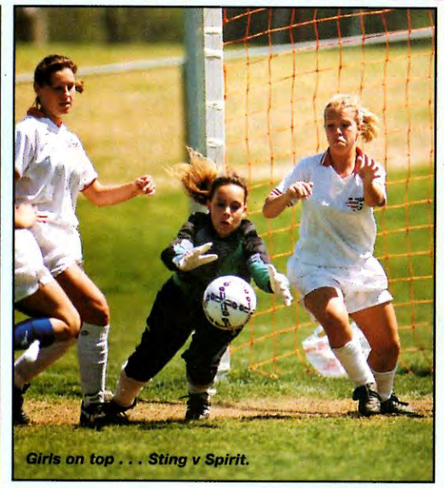
A WINNING TEAM!

Alta Loma Arsenal (white shorts) v San Diego Surf.

West Ham United's Youth team, sponsored by WORLD SOCCER.

- **The Dallas Cup is America's premier international youth soccer event and will be held in Dallas, Texas, USA . . . April 12 — 19,1992.**
- **Our partnership with American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII includes the involvement of Shoot, Britain's biggest selling soccer weekly.**
- **The West Ham United Youth team will represent WORLD SOCCER and Shoot in the Super Group, and will play against world class opposition. The young Hammers will gain invaluable experience competing against last year's winners Moscow Dynamo (Russia); Union Sante Fe (Argentina); Club Nacional (Uruguay); UNAM Pumas (Mexico) and Tahuichi (Bolivia).**
- **WORLD SOCCER will help to make history in Dallas as a sponsor of the American Airlines World Cup 94 Press Forum . . . the first event of its kind. Together with our American hosts WORLD SOCCER will welcome 20 of the world's leading soccer writers who will be meeting FIFA officials including President Joao Havelange and US Soccer Federation representatives to discuss all aspects of World Cup USA 94.**

England's Knowsley Youth (blue shirts) v Wichita Strikers from Kansas.



Girls on top . . . Sting v Spirit.

Welcome World Soccer

Bill Stroube presents the Thamrong Thai Samusorn team with their medals.

Bill Stroube, Executive Director of the American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII is delighted to welcome WORLD SOCCER as a sponsor of the tournament.

"WORLD SOCCER is without doubt the most respected soccer publication of its kind in the world. Together we can ensure the Dallas Cup keeps pace with the tremendous growth of youth soccer in the USA."

Moscow Dynamo . . . champions last year.

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AMERICAN AIRLINES support soccer on both sides of the Atlantic. They are the official 1994 USA World Cup airline . . . CONCACAF . . . our own Football Association and the England squad.

They are also sponsoring a whole soccer programme called The Transatlantic Challenge with matches between England and the USA at youth, Under-21, full level and women's internationals.

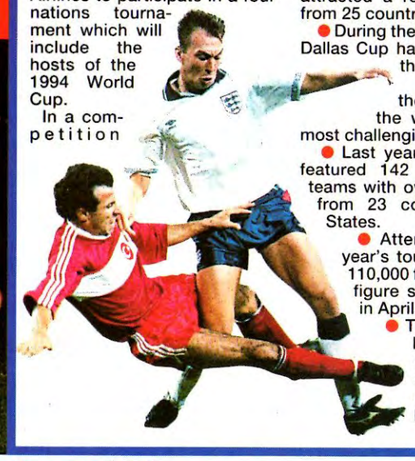
In 1993 England travel to the United States with American Airlines to participate in a four nations tournament which will include the hosts of the 1994 World Cup.

In a competition exclusive to WORLD SOCCER and Shoot readers American Airlines will be offering tickets to the States to support England in one, or several of their games.

- Also in the coming months WORLD SOCCER and Shoot will be featuring more competitions with tickets for all England's World Cup qualifying ties at Wembley . . . signed footballs and shirts as prizes.

American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII Data File:

- This year's tournament has attracted a record 168 teams from 25 countries.
- During the last 12 years, the Dallas Cup has developed into the premier youth tournament in the USA and one of the world's best and most challenging.
- Last year the tournament featured 142 boys and girls teams with over 3,000 players from 23 countries and 25 States.
- Attendances for last year's tournament topped 110,000 for the week. That figure should be beaten in April.
- Texas is a soccer hot-bed, with well over 85,000 officially registered youth players.



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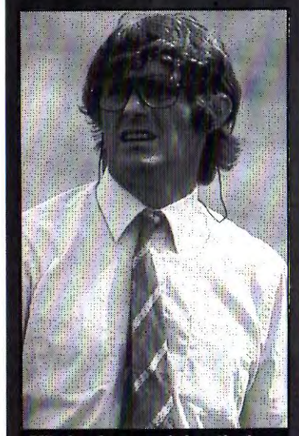

Milutinovic . . . weird methods.

Eric Wynalda (left) beats Kakhaben Tskhadaze of the CIS to the ball during the 1-0 victory for the US in Miami.

STRANGER STILL . . .

COACH Bora Milutinovic continues his weird and wonderful progress with the US national team.

As an example of the weird: it is no secret that he is not overly delighted with the play of Tony Meola, the current US goalkeeper — yet while Bora looks at others he has made Meola captain of the national team.

As an example of the wonderful, how about another win? This one came against the Commonwealth of Independent States (ex-USSR) on the plastic grass of Detroit's covered Silverdome.

A 2-1 victory thanks to a second-half penalty by Marcelo Balboa.

The penalty — awarded by American referee Jack D'Aquila — was an embarrassment to all. Even Bruce Murray, the player who was supposed to have been fouled, admitted that "it was a bad call."

The win evened things up between the US and the CIS — a week earlier, in Miami, the CIS won 1-0 in a game which also featured a penalty kick for the US. This one was only mildly dubious, and Balboa's kick was saved.

The national team's tour of Europe in March is likely to prove the most decisive step so far in the team-making process.

For the game against Spain on March 11, all the European expatriates are likely to be available — Roy Wegerle, John Harkes (playing in England), Tab Ramos and Peter Vermes (Spain), Ernie Stewart (Holland), Frank Klopas (Greece), and Paul Caligiuri (Germany).

So far, Milutinovic has seen little of these players, who might reasonably be expected to form the nucleus of his 1994 team.

1992 APSL FIXTURES

02.05.92	Fort Lauderdale v Colorado
02.05.92	San Francisco Bay v Tampa Bay
03.05.92	Miami v Colorado
09.05.92	Tampa Bay v San Francisco Bay
10.05.92	Fort Lauderdale v San Francisco Bay
13.05.92	San Francisco Bay v Colorado
16.05.92	San Francisco Bay v Fort Lauderdale
16.05.92	Miami v Tampa Bay
17.05.92	Colorado v Fort Lauderdale
30.05.92	San Francisco Bay v Colorado
30.05.92	Fort Lauderdale v Tampa Bay
06.06.92	Tampa Bay v Miami
06.06.92	Colorado v San Francisco Bay
13.06.92	Colorado v Tampa Bay
13.06.92	Fort Lauderdale v Miami
19.06.92	Miami v San Francisco Bay
21.06.92	Tampa Bay v San Francisco Bay
27.06.92	Miami v Fort Lauderdale
03.07.92	Fort Lauderdale v Tampa Bay
04.07.92	San Francisco Bay v Miami
05.07.92	Colorado v Miami
10.07.92	Tampa Bay v Colorado
11.07.92	Fort Lauderdale v Colorado
18.07.92	Miami v Tampa Bay
18.07.92	Colorado v San Francisco Bay
25.07.92	Colorado v Fort Lauderdale
25.07.92	Tampa Bay v Miami
26.07.92	San Francisco Bay v Fort Lauderdale
31.07.92	Miami v San Francisco Bay
01.08.92	Fort Lauderdale v San Francisco Bay
14.08.92	Tampa Bay v Colorado
16.08.92	Miami v Colorado
16.08.92	Fort Lauderdale v Tampa Bay
22.08.92	Tampa Bay v Fort Lauderdale
22.08.92	Colorado v Miami
23.08.92	San Francisco Bay v Miami
29.08.92	Fort Lauderdale v Miami
29.08.92	San Francisco Bay v Tampa Bay
30.08.92	Colorado v Tampa Bay
30.08.92	Miami v Fort Lauderdale

1992 APSL Championships
Semi-finals
September 11-13
1st Place Finisher v 4th Place finisher
2nd Place Finisher v 3rd Third Place
Final
September 26

CANADA

WAITERS QUITS AS COACH

TONY WAITERS has resigned as Canada's World Cup coach but will continue to coach the Olympic team.

Waiters (right), having a second stint at the helm of Canada's national teams, cited expanding personal business interests for his decision.

He led Canada to the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico and then resigned, but returned two years ago following the resignation of Tony Taylor.

Waiters, the former Blackpool and England goalkeeper, continues as coach of the Under-23 team now on the verge of competing against Honduras, the United States and Mexico for one of two spots in the 1992 Olympic finals.

The man most likely to succeed Waiters is former national team full-back Bobby Lenarduzzi, once with Reading, who has had an outstanding career as coach of Vancouver 86ers.

Waiters has business interests in clinics and instructional videos for youth soccer development in Canada and the US, and his interests are now conflicting.

Lenarduzzi, who was born in Vancouver, played 47 internationals for Canada before retiring. Since then has led Vancouver 86ers to four straight titles and won praise all round for his team's entertaining style.

The 86ers will represent Canada in the CONCACAF Champions' Cup, the first Canadian team to enter the competition since Toronto Italia in 1976.

London Lazers return to the league this year after an absence of one season, while Nova Scotia Clippers have dropped out after only one campaign.

There will be at least one new head coach this season. Roy Wiggemanson has resigned from Toronto Blizzard and will be replaced by his assistant, Peter Kozak. Hamilton Steelers are without a coach, but owner Mario DiBartomeo is hoping Gerry Gray will return.

COLIN **JOSE**

FOUR OUT OF FOUR FOR VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER 86ers won their fourth consecutive Canadian Soccer League championship by beating Toronto Blizzard in the final.

David Norman, who used to play for Blizzard, was man of the match and scored twice — his first goals of the season.

Dominic Mobilio, named Most Valuable Player in the League, scored one of the other goals in a 5-3 victory.

The 86ers had taken 64 points from their 28 games compared with 48 by Blizzard, the runners-up.

The play-off adds some spice to the end of the season, but perhaps it is not the best way of settling the title.

If Vancouver had lost this final match, after establishing such a huge lead, they would quite rightly have felt hard done by.

Although the American continent is concentrating more and more on the World Cup, interest in soccer is still higher in Canada than it is in the US.

TV shows one match each week, plus three hours of European football and most of the national team's games. All 52 matches from Italia '90 were shown, and the same is likely to happen in '94.

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LOUISE **TAYLOR**

THE TIMES

WANTED:

A National No Quotes Day

No comment . . . the usual press conference: cameras, lights but very little action!

WHAT would happen if every national newspaper agreed to hold a No-Quote Day? Ideally a Monday, involving reports of Saturday games, and asking no more of reporters than is required from theatre or film critics. It would send shock waves scudding through the football writing world.

Nannies — nanny goats is rhyming slang for quotes — have become so beloved of journalists that to compose many a tabloid match report it is not necessary to watch the match, just attend the press conference. The action, after all, can be condensed into a throwaway sentence at the end .

Should the managers fail to come up with the stuff of disrepute charges — "That referee should be shot" — or at least a nice human interest angle — "My missus could have tackled harder than that lot" there is always the car park.

Here it is possible to hijack both disgruntled — "I want a move, the boss hasn't even spoken to me for ten days" — and delighted — "the best goal I've ever scored, I reckon I deserve a few beers tonight" — players.

A few honourable exceptions apart, neither managers nor players necessarily tell you a lot about what really took place on the pitch. Even on those occasions when they do, if you've only got 400 — or fewer — words to play with, surely it's more interesting and objective for the writers to offer their own interpretation of events.

That is, after all, what he or she was trained, and is paid, to do. Tacking a series of verbatim quotes together is, at best, lazy.

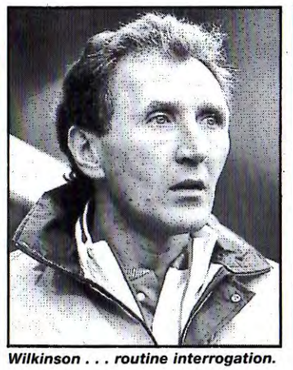
Managers and players are hired to do precisely what their job titles imply, journalists to observe, record, interpret and analyse. Of course the expert inside view can — and sometimes does — illuminate but it also smacks of vested interest, an understandable desire not to offend friends and professional acquaintances who could one day prove potential employers.

All too often the upshot is a euphemistic blandness clothed in cliches that readers equate with boredom. So do some inside football.

After a League Cup tie involving Leicester and Leeds last season Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was being routinely interrogated by a tabloid reporter specifically assigned to follow the club.

Wilkinson suddenly rounded on him to say: "I'm fed up of reading what I've said in your reports. You've seen us enough. Why don't you write what you see and think?" The reply?: "But my sports editor wants quotes."

Why? The answer is probably because his rivals — similarly holed up in their London bunkers — do so, and the sheep syndrome is endemic among what once was known as Fleet Street.



Wilkinson . . . routine interrogation.

Perhaps they underestimate their readers. Danny Baker's views on Bruce Rioch and Millwall are unquestionably way over the top, but his cult Six-O-Six phone-in show on Radio 5 each Saturday tea-time reveals healthy disrespect for "manager/player-speak" among "punters".

Baker recalls Tony Adams of Arsenal being clearly shown by television to mouth "do you want some?" to an opponent after an altercation before telling a post-match interviewer he had been "a little upset" by the incident.

Likewise, what do It was a good all round performance . . . We got a result . . . It was a game of two halves . . . There were a few interesting situations out there . . . We have to go back to work . . . I've got no complaints about my players . . . We lost a game we should have won comfortably . . . We had two or three great chances . . . In football, there is a thin line between success and failure . . . and It's a man's game . . . really mean? Think about it.

Six-O-Six owes a large part of its success to the fact that it represents the sole limb of the national establishment media prepared to acknowledge the attitude of the fanzine movement. As with fanzines, it affords no space for sycophancy, little reverence for the cult of the manager, and even less for highly paid stars.

Readers equate cliches with boredom

Baker . . . healthy disrespect for "manager/player-speak".

Fanzines sell well outside football grounds. A high percentage of those who buy them also take tabloids.

Does this not suggest that they might welcome a bit more outspoken individualism on the part of our national footballing press? Does fortune not favour the brave? Realistically, this age of the quote with everything dictates that National No Quote Day is a fantasy. But the present situation could be improved radically.

One current feature which could do with eradication is the Sundays/Mondays press conference situation. That involves journalists from daily newspapers — who will file their stories for Monday's paper — persuading the manager to hold court to daily journalists after an initial general conference, aimed principally at those writing for Sunday papers.

Some managers refuse to comply with such requests. Good for them. Why should they spoon-feed journalists too unimaginative to come up with an original Monday piece of their own accord? Football writers in general do not like to be different. That is why, on any given morning, you will read virtually the same quotes re-cycled, to fit the same angle, in each tabloid.

Why should journalists be spoonfed quotes?

Gray . . . fined for speaking his mind.

While working for *Today* I once got an "exclusive" from Andy Gray, the Crystal Palace midfield player, after a home match with Coventry. It resulted in Gray being fined two weeks' wages and certain members of the tabloid "mafia" cold-shouldering me for weeks because I had neglected to follow the time-honoured tradition of "pooling" quotes.

This, of course, is dependent on the manager actually bothering to turn up for the conference. Failure to "get a result" or even a suggestion of controversy and he may well take refuge in the bath. Football managers must be among the cleanest people on the planet.

Sports editors don't like the "declined to comment" so a trek to an almost certainly cold, and quite possibly wet, car park ensues. If you are lucky the manager might say: "No comment" or "You're wasting your time" to your face.

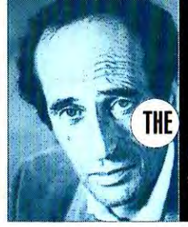
In America, or parts of Europe, that manager would have to put up with reporters — including women — in his dressing room within 30 minutes of the final whistle.

As one British female football journalist once responded to a question on how she felt about entering dressing rooms: "In England it is hard enough to see players and managers with their clothes on, let alone off."

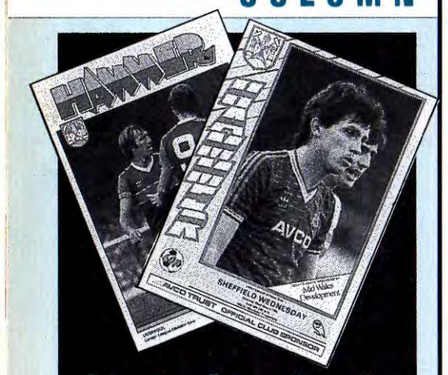
At other times — he wants to sell a player, drop hints he's after a new job, or paper over the cracks in a poor team with a few clever one liners — the press can prove useful.

The way to stop managers blowing hot and cold like this is clearly that No Quotes Day. Were it to happen, you can bet your bottom dollar that those managers who had delighted in manipulating the media would be casting concerned glances at their morning newspapers, nervous at the prospect of a press free to think for itself.

That would be much more fun for readers and reporters alike, although Baker and Radio 5 might not be overjoyed at all lines being simultaneously jammed with newly-neglected managers anxious to boost ailing egos.



THE BRIAN GLANVILLE COLUMN



Cheerio, Jack

HOW sad and strange it is to go into the West Ham Press room and not to be confronted by the great, amiable bulk of that Prince of Press stewards, Jack Helliar.

Jack, with his rubicund cheeks, his pork-pie hats, his irrepressible Cockney scepticism and quick badinage, was far more than mere steward.

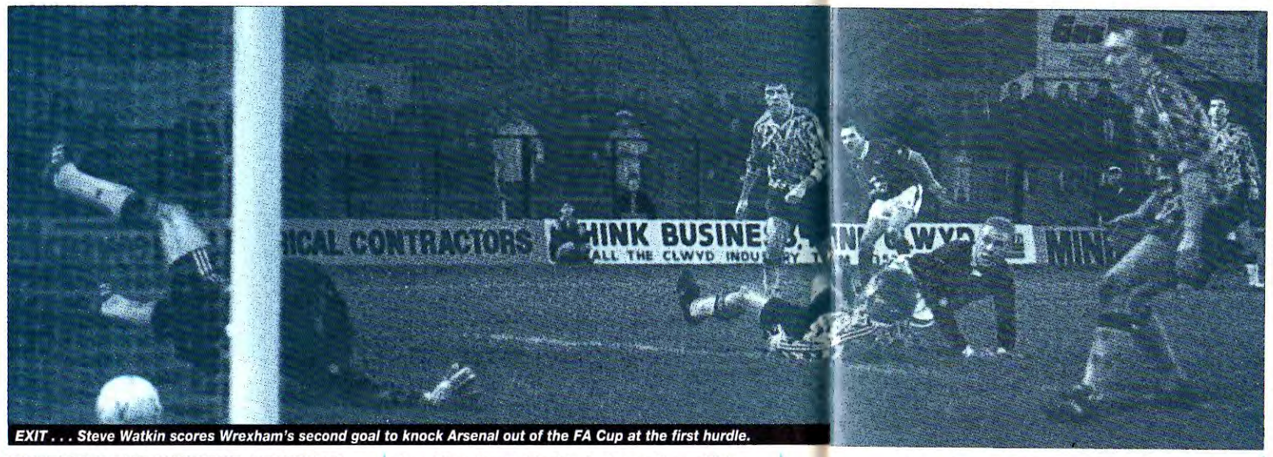
He owned a printing works, and for years edited and largely wrote one of the best programmes in the League, one which displayed a rich sense of West Ham's past. As befitted one who, at the start of the last war, had joined up in the Territorials with a batch of West Ham United players. This episode was recalled in text and pictures in the excellent book he published a few years ago.

Perhaps that programme was too good to last. In time — a bad time — it was superceded by the usual, empty glossiness, the dull pages of nothing, which pass for programmes nowadays. Jack was restricted to the marginal, historical reminiscence. The rest was gloss.

What a drubbing Jack gave his hapless (and in fact quite innocent) equivalents at Anfield this season, when told he'd have to pay for a drink at the Press bar. Hammers, he pointed out, showed abundant free hospitality to every reporter in their Press room! And how he enjoyed his holidays, driving great distances through France. There was nothing insular about this, the most Londoner of Londoners.

To his son John, who succeeds him in the Press room, and to his family, my sincere condolences. Goodness, how he will be missed!

AN OLD QUESTION HAS ANOTHER AIRING



EXIT . . . Steve Watkin scores Wrexham's second goal to knock Arsenal out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ARSENAL? was the heading to Twelfth Man's Sports Diary in the *Evening News* as long ago as 1943.

The team, as the phrase then was, growing old together, were no longer dominating wartime football in the South, though at that time most of their players, including those in the armed forces, were available.

In the 1970s, when Arsenal had run into a bleak patch, I phoned their then manager, Bertie Mee, and reminded him of that headline; it was the kind of question which cropped up occasionally down the seasons.

Mee refused to discuss it though he realised, he said, that I had a living to earn. That Saturday Arsenal went out and thrashed West Ham, making his reticence seem a little excessive.

Now we are asking the question again, and the man in the chair is George Graham. His and Arsenal's plight have elicited little sympathy; but then, outside Highbury, it never has.

Arsenal, in the inter-war years, became the team you loved to hate, the very embodiment, it seemed in the provinces, of metropolitan, strutting arrogance.

Quite the reverse from Manchester United, whose triumphs down the years, coupled with the horrific disaster of Munich, have gained them supporters throughout the British Isles. Nor have Liverpool, for all their sustained success, ever become an antipathetic team, though the same cannot always have been said for their supporters. After Arsenal had lost a pre-season home match on penalties to Sampdoria, Graham, gazing down from his dais at us poor scribblers, said he'd been astonished to read in the *Sunday Times* that morning that Arsenal's back four had been overrated.

Not much quality at Highbury these days

It was not exactly what I'd written, but indeed I'd suggested that statistics from the previous League season had not told the truth about a defence which had often been breached but got away with it. Though not, of course, in the 6-2 League Cup thrashing by Manchester United, and the 3-1 defeat by Spurs in the Wembley FA Cup semi-final.

After the conference, I told George I was glad he was reading the *Sunday Times* again.

"I expected a bit more quality," he smiled.

"When I see it, I'll write it," I said.

Alas, there's not been much of it to write about this season, with a slump in the Championship, wretched Cup elimination at the hands, or boots, of Benfica, Coventry City and little Wrexham.

Disaffected players — in the shape of Michael Thomas, rejuvenated at Anfield, and Paul Davis, despite his abundant testimonial.

A suspect transfer policy. A thoroughly porous defence. And, on top of all that, the deeply vexed question of the bonds, designed to finance the rebuilding of the North Bank in a way which seems certain to exclude the vociferous young working-class fans who stand there at the moment, the very heart and core of the club's support.

Last season, not least at a Press conference after Chelsea had become the first and only team to beat Arsenal in the League, Graham had jibbed at my strictures on the number of centre-halves he's got together at Highbury.

But earlier this year, there he was trying to sell the vastly-overpriced, £1 million, Andy Linighan back to Norwich, while the central partnership of the unsettled Steve Bould and Tony Adams was shipping water most embarrassingly.

On the flanks, Dixon and Winterburn were looking vulnerable, circumstances which might have led to Winterburn's amazing behaviour in the home match against Wimbledon. His error led to a goal, and he went three times to the East Stand to upbraid a carping fan.

Graham, commendably a student of Arsenal's history, in a game where (at least in England) you sometimes feel that yesterday did not exist, especially admires the grand architect of Arsenal's success, Herbert Chapman.

Yet you could never imagine Chapman doing what Arsenal did when Adams went to prison for a motoring offence; paying his full wages while he was in gaol and thus of no service to the club.

And what would Chapman have done if one of his players had behaved like Winterburn had done?

The all-seated menace

MORE and more does the Taylor Report seem a poisoned chalice.

Football at large breathed a great, collective sigh of relief when Lord Taylor shot down the ludicrous, Moynihan-trumpeted aberration of the ID cards, but in their euphoria, the football people, and their addled leaders, quite failed to perceive the menace implicit in the demand for all-seater stadiums.

At which point, a small digression is in order.

There have been three horrifying disasters at football grounds in recent years; at Bradford (right), Heysel and Hillsborough. All with conse-quences which have been exaggerated and unjustified.

I still cannot understand why there was never any prose-cution after Bradford. The rubbish ignited by a chance cigarette butt had been under the stand floor for some two decades. The club and the council both knew. The council had told the club to clear it. The club had not. The council had let matters drift. Comment is superfluous.

At Heysel, a witches' brew of incom-petence, cowardice, violence and dere-liction of duty brought about a disaster which would never have happened but for a gross succession of mistakes.

Heysel, in its decrepit state, should not have been given such a match. Tickets should never have been sold for the Z terraces in Belgium, where they were bound to fall into the hands of Italian fans.

The Brussels police were hopelessly ill equipped, in every sense, to deal with the notoriously violent lunatic fringe of the Liverpool fans; whose riot easily could have been quelled and would have been by British police.

Sheffield was another disaster which easily could have been avoided. After the hapless David Duckenfield, his colleague in the Sheffield police hierarchy has been allowed to slip free from prosecution. But it has always seemed to me that Ducken-field, even if he did as suggested "freeze" on the occasion of the tragedy, was being made a scapegoat.

Why wasn't there a prosecution over the Bradford fire?

The salient question must surely be, WHY WAS HE IN CHARGE AT ALL? And at such alarmingly short notice? His predecessor, under whose aegis, a year earlier, nothing had gone wrong when the same teams met there in a semi-final, had been taken off the task for purportedly disciplinary reasons. It is not for me to question such reasons; only to wonder, with dismay, why he could not at least have been left in charge at Hillsborough before he was allegedly put behind a desk.

As I write, there is news that the commendable Tom Pendry, chairman of the House of Commons Football Committee, is pressing hard to revoke the diktat that all Third and Fourth Division clubs must in time go all-seater. It is obviously a fatuous and potentially destructive ruling.

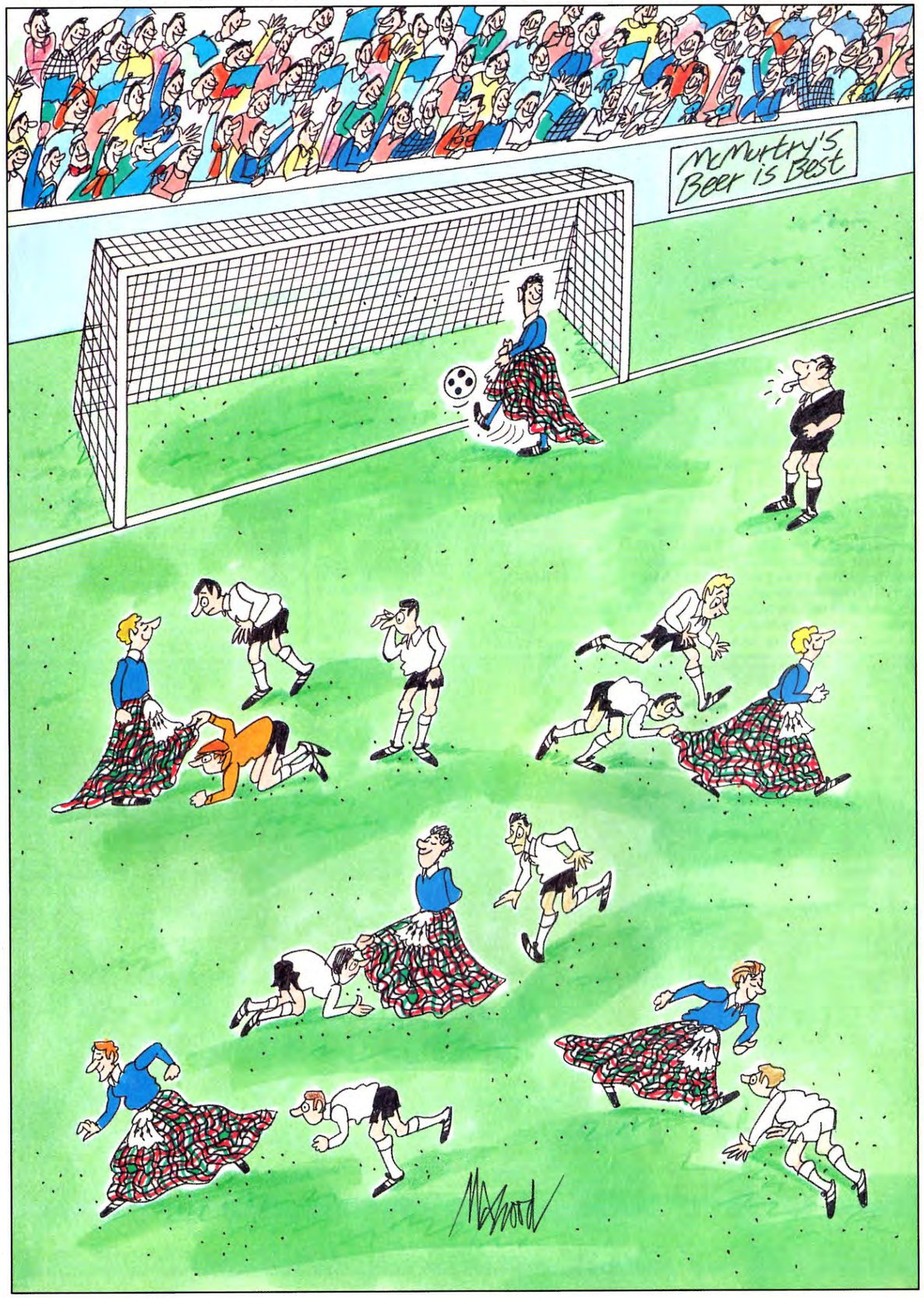
All-seater stadiums are not a panacea. I have pointed out before that many supporters are frightened by the difficulty in getting away when violence breaks out in seated areas. Nor are all-seater stadiums what they may superficially appear. I get continual complaints from fans about the way Wembley have simply stuck seats on terraces, creating in many cases wretched sight lines and much discomfort.

The whole vexed matter of bonds springs from the Taylor Report and its blanket implementation. No wonder Arsenal and West Ham fans are unwilling to fork out huge sums of bond money, merely for the "privilege" of then being allowed to spend more money on season tickets. Poor Billy Bonds; who has had enough problems at Upton Park this season without the bonds.

The club will reply that they have been put over a barrel. How are they expected to find the money to finance such expensive rebuilding?

The answer, as we've been given the hint of at Manchester City, is to spend less on transfers and wages.

The Scottish Hidden Ball Game



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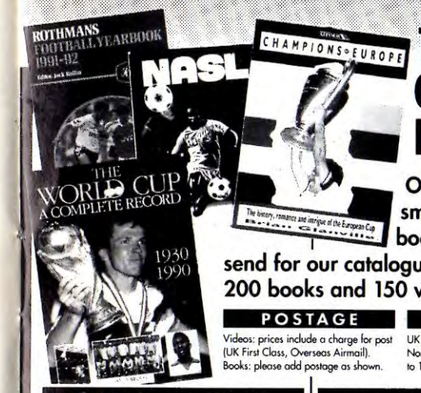

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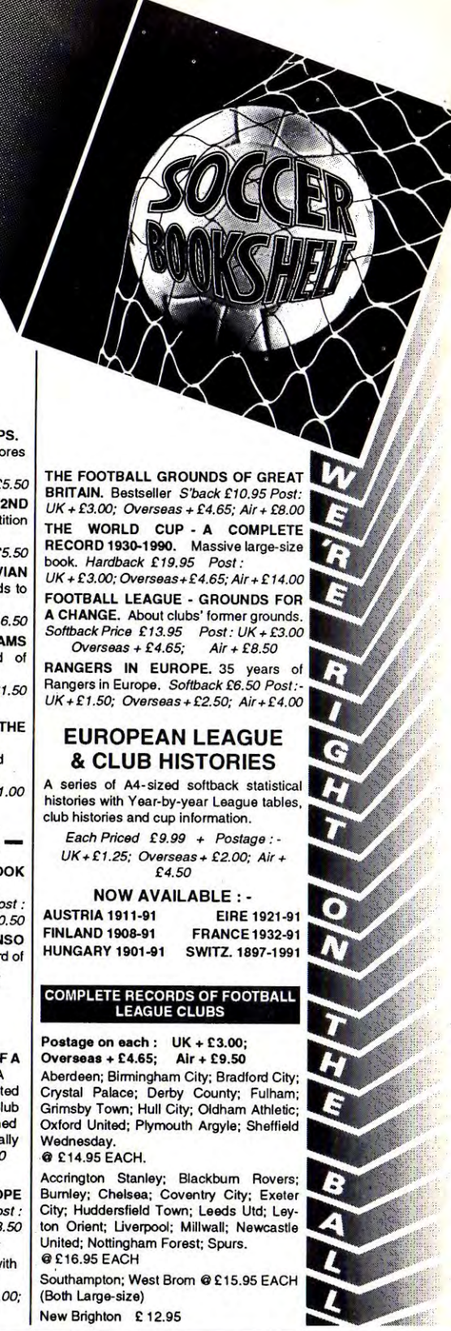

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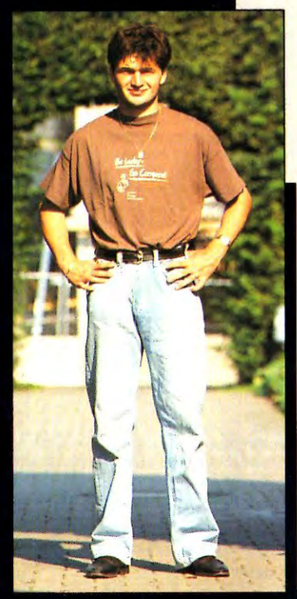
REVENGE

spotlight on

Stephane *Chapuisat*



SWISS striker Stephane Chapuisat is out for revenge on the Scots.

"We lost out to Scotland in the European Championship qualifiers," he says. "But we have been paired with them again for the 1994 World Cup eliminators, and this time we hope to set the record straight.

"It was very disappointing that Switzerland did not make the European finals. But we have only ourselves to blame. For example, we allowed Scotland to draw in Berne after taking a two-goal lead.

"Then in our vital game in Romania we made the mistake of playing for a draw and lost to a late goal. We were naive."

Not that Chapuisat's club form for Borussia Dortmund has been adversely affected by Switzerland's Euro '92 exit. Since signing from relegated Bayer Uerdingen last summer, his 11 goals helped elevate Borussia to Bundesliga leaders at the winter break.

Stephane warns the Scots

'WE WANT TO GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME'

A perfect example of his class in front of goal came during Dortumund's visit to Borussia Munchengladbach.

He appeared to pose little threat when a rebound fell to him on the edge of the area. With his back to goal and marker at close quarters, a lay-off to a team-mate seemed his most likely option. But not for Chapuisat. Instead he turned and unleashed a left-foot rocket into the roof of the net.

The Bundesliga has not always been a happy place for Swiss footballers. During the past 20 years, the likes of "Kudi" Muller at Hertha Berlin and Koln's Rene Botterton achieved little. But unlike his compatriots, Stephane Chapuisat has acclimatised remarkably to German soccer.

"He has been a great buy," says the Dortmund coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld. "Nor is he just a goalscorer. Stephane is so effective when operating wide on the left, and has made several goals for us.

"The three goals he created in our 4-1 win over Hansa Rostock underlined his superb vision and crossing ability. His centre for Michael Lusch's winning volley at Werder Bremen was simply perfect." Chapuisat's instant success at Borussia Dortmund certainly contrasts with his initial six months in the Bundesliga. He moved to Bayer Uerdingen from Lausanne in January 1991, but within a few days he suffered a serious knee injury in an indoor tournament in Dusseldorf.

He was out for three months and returned to the Uerdingen side only in April. He went on to score seven goals, but was unable to prevent relegation.

"Despite my injury and Uerdingen's demotion, I don't regret my time there," he declares. "Although I played in only a handful of games, I performed well enough to receive an offer from Dortmund.

"In future I hope to play for a major club in Italy. But that dream is still a long way off. The Bundesliga is a good place for a youngster to begin a career abroad, and Dortmund is a particularly football-mad city." Switzerland and Neuchatel Xamax defender Andre Egli agrees that German soccer will improve Chapuisat's game.

"I was at Borussia Dortmund in the mid-1980s and I am sure Stephane will become a better player in Germany," explains Egli. "He will benefit from the experience of facing close-marking defenders.

"He is already a highly-skilled attacker. In Germany I believe he will develop, both physically and mentally, into one of Europe's top players." Stephane Chapuisat was born in Lausanne on June 28, 1969. His father is former Swiss international defender Pierre-Albert Chapuisat, and Stephane naturally inherited a love of football.

Not that Pierre-Albert was always a role model for his son. While a player with Lausanne, Zurich and Vevey, he earned a reputation as a hot-head and was involved in one of Swiss football's worst incidents.

On Friday September 13, 1985, Chapuisat senior was playing for Vevey at Servette. That date was particulary unlucky for Servette midfielder Lucien Favre when Chapuisat scythed him down. Favre was carried off with severed knee ligaments, and scandal erupted.

The referee had not booked Chapuisat, but television revealed the cold-blooded nature of the foul. Viewers were outraged and Vevey president Paul Rinsosz reacted by sacking Chapuisat. His career was effectively over. Stephane, however, has not followed his father's dubious example and has concentrated on making headlines for sporting excellence.

At 18 he was a regular on the Lausanne left wing and shortly afterwards he was drafted — with club colleagues Marc Hottiger and Christophe Ohrel — into the Swiss Under-21 side.

In June 1989 Chapuisat was given his full international debut and celebrated by performing well in Switzerland's 1-0 victory over Brazil in Basle.

During the 1989-90 season his 11 goals helped Lausanne to second in the championship behind Grasshoppers, and in the following season he scored 13 before Christmas. He did not, however, reappear for Lausanne after the winter break. Nottingham Forest showed an interest in him, but he eventually signed for Bayer Uerdingen in a £1.1 million deal.

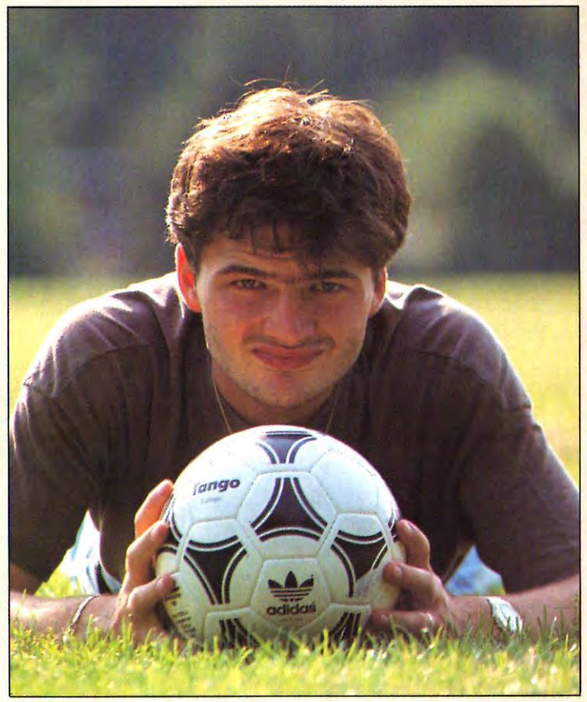
Lausanne coach Umberto Barberis was furious, and blamed Pierre-Albert Chapuisat for his part in the transfer.

"Stephane was happy here, but Pierre-Albert thought there was money to be made and encouraged him to leave us," declared Barberis. "It's a great loss."

Despite only two goals in his 18 internationals, Chapuisat's impressive all-round displays have established him on Switzerland's left flank. And in partnership with young strikers Kubilay Turkyilmaz and Adrian Knup, he aims to end his country's depressing run of international misses.

"We have not qualified for a major tournament since the 1966 World Cup and have grown used to losing," says Chapuisat. "I hope I can do something to help change that attitude."

NICK **BIDWELL** WS



spotlight on

Stefan *Effenberg*

GERMAN fans have a new scapegoat: Stefan Effenberg, the controversial Bayern Munich defender, has become the target for almost constant abuse.

Even in the media he is vilified, as no other German footballer before him.

Arrogant attitudes and contemptuous pronouncements have made 23-year-old Effenberg unpopular. Last season when he boldly predicted: "Bayern will win the championship, because the others are too stupid."

He had to eat his words when Kaiserslautern won the title, and their manager, Kalli Feldkamp, described Effenberg as: "An average footballer who talks a lot."

Effenberg retorts: "Our general manager, Uli Hoeness, also said we could still be champions, and that was just as silly as my remark."

The climax to Effenberg's slump in personal prestige came in the European Championship qualifying tie against Wales last October, when he went on as substitute 12 minutes from time.

Even though the Germans were cruising to a 4-1 win, his arrival was greeted by booing, whistling and catcalls unprecedented in his country.

Team manager Berti Vogts was outraged. "This is scandalous," he said. "A German on his home ground being abused like that is frankly unforgivable."

Vogts insisted at the time that he would not bow to the morons and would stick with Effenberg, but after the player had criticised his club manager, team and directors, he reviewed his stance.

Closely

"My players and I have tried to help Stefan and discussed the problem with him, and we all thought he understood the situation," said Vogts. "But then came his attacks on Bayern, which I find unacceptable. Today it is Bayern, tomorrow perhaps the national team."

Vogts promptly left Effenberg out of the squad for the final European tie, against Luxembourg, and said: "It now depends on his attitude whether he returns for the finals. I shall watch closely his relationship with the club and his team mates in the coming weeks."

Effenberg does not get on with Bayern's team boss, the Dane Soren Lerby, who dropped him once, just before the winter break.

Rumour has it that Effenberg is deliberately trying to provoke his dismissal from Munich because he wants to play abroad.

Last June Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza met Bayern officials and offered £3.3 million, but the Germans demanded £5m. Now, even though he is Bayern's only current international, they may not find another club to pay that much for a trouble-maker — not even Lazio, who inquired recently, but were turned down.

Apparently the Italians wanted to insure themselves against any possible collapse of the Gascoigne deal. Lazio could be planning a German trio, for they are delighted with their striking tandem of Thomas Doll and Karl-Heinz Riedle.

Effenberg was born on August 8, 1968, and played for regional league clubs Bramfelder SV and Victoria Hamburg before joining Borussia Monchengladbach.

He was transferred to Bayern for £1.3m in 1990 and made his international debut last June, as substitute in a European Championship tie in Cardiff.

His bad image originated from a harmless escapade, he claims. "My team-mate Jorg Neun and I slipped out of a training camp in Munchengladbach," he says. "An idiot spread stories that we went to a disco with some girls.

"Actually I visited my wife Martina, who was then seven months pregnant, but I couldn't convince anybody that I was telling the truth."

That seems quite often to be his problem, but one can believe him when he says: "I want everybody to love me — especially my mother-in-law."

This often-repeated desire could arise from frustration at not having many friends. What about at Bayern? "Well, Brian Laudrup is one."

His father Dieter claims: "Stefan was always self-confident, open and honest." Now he is trying to project the image of a dedicated family man and churchgoer. He has two children, aged five and 20 months, whose nappies he often changes.

"Without my family I couldn't have coped," he says.

But he acts differently when at the club. There he asserts: "Under Heynckes (Lerby's predecessor) this wouldn't have happened." Or: "When one criticises Lerby, then one must also criticise Beckenbauer and Rummenigge, the advisers. Too many people are having their say.

"We players don't know what is happening. On Monday Lerby announces that Wouters will play libero. On Tuesday we read that Beckenbauer and Rummenigge would rather he played in midfield."

Effenberg concedes ruefully: "I made many mistakes. Some of the things should not have been said. But I am simply honest, certainly not naive, but perhaps not too clever either."

His only friend, Laudrup, observes: "The other players don't know Stefan. They think he is a bighead and a loudmouth. But most of them are just envious."

One thing is certain: Bayern would not mind if the rebellious Effenberg left. That would bring them much-needed internal peace. And a lot of money.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL** WS

WHY STEFAN IS THE ODD MAN OUT

LOUDMOUTH

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Out too soon

SIR — NO English player has provoked more controversy over regular international selection than Chris Waddle (below). I agree he had a disappointing game against Turkey last October, but on his day Waddle can be a match-winner. The Marseille star was not even considered for a place in Graham Taylor's squad for the B international against France. English football must be in a very healthy state if a player of Waddle's class can be discarded so soon.

— JEAN-CLAUDE FERNAND, Reims,France.

Wrong choice

SIR — THE sacking of Ossie Ardiles (left) as manager of Newcastle was very sad, and unnecessary! I wish Kevin Keegan well and sincerely hope he manages to save the club from relegation. But surely, the money it cost to pay off Ossie and bring Kevin to St. James's Park would more than paid for the two defenders the team obviously needed.

— BILL FRASER, Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Island fever

SIR — As we are all aware, soccer is becoming more of an international sport by the day. Even small countries like San Marino, Liechtenstein and the Faroes are now participating in international competitions. But few people know that Gibraltar, too, has caught soccer fever, and is attempting to join the international scene.

Gibraltar is only three miles long and has a population of only 30,000, but is an independent country, though it is currently a British colony, in the southernmost tip of Spain.

Recently our football federation, the GFA, submitted an application for membership to FIFA, but this was rejected when Spain vetoed the application.

Our single football stadium, the Victoria Stadium, has just been refurbished and resurfaced, in accordance with international regulations.

Three top English clubs were invited to participate in a series of matches against Gibraltar. Norwich were thrashed 3-0, Crystal Palace were held 2-2 and we were finally beaten, 4-2 by Chelsea.

The stadium was packed to capacity for each match. This shows how capable Gibraltar is in playing soccer (we have our own league and cup competitions).

Hopefully, FIFA will listen to us for a change and allow us to enter their federation.

— DENNIS BEISO, Gibraltar.

Overblown hype

SIR — I read Andrew Conradi's interview with Alan Rothenberg (December) with great interest. I support all efforts to make the 1994 World Cup a rousing success, but I feel that much of Rothenberg's analysis is simply overblown hype and wishful thinking. This is hardly an unknown phenomenon in American soccer circles.

The basic problem which has existed in this country since the 1920s (when professional soccer made its debut) is to find a niche in an already overcrowded sporting calendar.

The best hope for soccer would be to try to model itself on ice hockey. This sport has created a niche in the American market through sound marketing strategies, and judicial cable television agreements.

Again, it would be wise to keep the initial league small — perhaps setting up in cities from Chicago eastward (Vancouver is the single western exception) and only in locales where proven support is at hand.

I would like to be proven wrong, but frankly I don't think the projected league will get off the ground, nor do I think that Rothenberg & Co will be around five years after the staging of the World Cup.

You must be an elephant or a dinosaur to see soccer succeed in this country. Many of us are already creeping into the latter category, but somehow hope still blooms.

— EDWARD D. SCULLEN, Silver Spring, USA.

Brady's the right one

SIR — AS a die-hard Celtic supporter I've nothing against the English...and certainly don't agree that devolution is right for Scotland. But I get very angry when I read reports in the English press suggesting our manager Liam Brady (above right) is under threat of the sack. I realise the team haven't enjoyed the results we had hoped for, but Mr. Brady took on a formidable task at Parkhead. There's no way the club can compete in the transfer market with rivals Rangers, especially now they've clinched a massive £15 million sponsorship deal with the giant sports company adidas. But give Mr. Brady time and the backing of the fans and I am sure he will bring success to the club.

— ALEX FORBES, Aberfeldy,Scotland.

TV starvation

SIR — Mr Plimmer wrote (January) about televised football. He has not looked at Scotland: ALL the football we get is two half-hour highlights programmes.

Elsewhere in Britain they get live First Division games almost every Sunday, plus live European and FA Cup matches.

In Scotland we have had TWO live games so far this season: the Skol Cup Final and the Celtic-Neuchatel match in the UEFA Cup.

— ROBERT CLARK, Grantown-on-Spey, Inverness-shire, Scotland.

Qualify query

SIR — With the European Championship just around the corner it is time to increase the number of qualifiers. At present only eight qualify (seven group winners and host nation) for the final stages, compared with 13 for the next World Cup finals.

It would be a viable proposition to increase the number of particpants to 12 nations (seven group winners and host national plus four next-best nations). Also with recognition of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the possible break-up of Yugoslavia into states, the membership of UEFA will have increased by the next qualifying campaign.

Surely the time has come to increase the number of qualifiers when teams such as Italy and Spain fail to qualify for the premier European football event, also when teams such as Wales, Switzerland and Eire have put so much effort into their qualifying sections not to be rewarded with a place in the finals.

Things must be altered. It has now become easier to qualify for the World Cup finals than the European Championship finals. Come on, UEFA, change the number of qualifiers.

— STEPHEN KEDDIE, Fife, Scotland.

In the shadows

SIR — What has happened to Johnny Bosman's career? Many experts considered Bosman (above) to be a star to light up the 1988 European Championship, but he lost his place to Marco Van Basten, and since then has lived in Van Basten's shadow.

He was unbelievably dropped from the squad to go to Italia '90. Now, with the European tournament coming up again, and Holland as champions, they will need all the experience they can get.

Surely it's time to recall Bosman.

— JEFFREY McNAMARA, Limerick, Republic of Ireland.

WORLD SOCCER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Penpals

BOY, 15, fan of Liverpool, Marseille, France, AC Milan, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, seeks keen European penpal with similar taste. Write in French, German, Spanish or English. All letters answered.
— James Eastham, 4 South End, Riverside, Preston, Lancashire, PRI 8HA.

FOOTBALL addict seeks penpals, anywhere, m/f. All letters answered.
— Michael Williams, 17 North Street, Winterton, South Humberside, DN15 9QL, England.

MALE teacher, 27, fan of German soccer, seeking female penfriends.
— Patrick Weber, 16 Church Street, Flin Flon, Mb, Canada, R8A IKY.

STUDENT, 22, Man United fan, seeks penpals in Britain, Italy, United States, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. All letters answered, in English.
— Femi Nurenkpele, Federal University of Technology, Munna, Niger State, Nigeria.

SOCCER and music fan seeking penfriends in the Americas, England, Hong Kong, South Africa, Italy, Jamaica and Germany.
— Socrates Kankhuni, c/o J.M. Kapepuka, PO Box 30065, Chichiri, BT3, Malawi.

GREETINGS! I am a great fan of English football and would like to correspond with others.
— Roman Casatochtu, Veiza Vinokurova 17-1-20, 113447 Moscow.

I'M 22 and love soccer. I want to share my experiences with people who will write to me.
— Yahaya Ishaq, PO Box 969, Sunyani B/A, Ghana.

TO all female Everton, Cambridge and Celtic fans, especially if you are from the respective cities: please write to me in English, Swedish or Danish.
— Borre Ronqvist, No. Stortgt 26H, N-3015 Drammen, Norway.

I AM seeking a penfriend, outside Africa, preferably a Liverpool supporter, m/f, about 20.
— Sibangilizwe Sikhosana, 1791 New Magwegwe, PO Magwegwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

FOOTBALL is my life! Penpals wanted, especially in France, Spain, Germany, Italy and South America. M/F, please write in English.
— Ronan Quinlan, 1 Palmerston Grove, Prospect Lane, Dublin 6, Ireland.

REGULAR reader, fan of Chelsea, Napoli and AC Milan, seeks m/f penpals, 16-25.
— Charles Harrison, 33 Oyebo Street, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria.

VILLA and Crystal Palace fan seeks penfriends, 15-25.
— Dumisani Neube, 1768 New Magwegwe, PO Magwegwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

STAUNCH supporters of Liverpool and AC Milan would like to correspond with anyone in the world.
— Ghalib Swaleh, PO Box 84443, Mombasa, Kenya and Farhad Nizar, PO Box 80476, Mombasa.

SWEDISH penpal m/f over 16 wanted by 18-year-old Scotsman with a view to obtaining European Championship tickets.
— Garry Crawford, 61 Kenmount Drive, Kennoway, Fife, Scotland KY8 5LS.

STUDENT, undying fan of Liverpool, wants penpals, either sex, anywhere.
— Prince Annan Yeboah, PO Box 13804, Accra, Ghana.

MALE, 24, follows Gothenburg, Arsenal, Napoli and Xamax, seeks penfriends.
— Ackim Ngungun, Lilongwe TTC, KB Hostel, PO Box 40046, Kanengo LL4, Malawi.

FOOTBALL fans seek penfriends in any country.
— Tajudeen and Kazeem Alao, 6 Animashaun St., Akoka Yaba, Lagos State, Nigeria.

I'M a football and boxing fan looking for penpals.
— Oppong K. Brutus, Dorma Sec. School, Box 39, Dorma-Ahenkro, Ghana.

TWINS, 15, seek football fans as penfriends, any country but esp. Britain and Jamaica.
—Jorge and Jaime Fernandez Portillo, C/ Ciudad de Santander No. 6-6B, 11007 Cadiz, Spain.

SPANISH fan seeks penapals in Britain. Likes Cadiz and Hibernian.
— Alejandro Borrella Romero, C/Ciudad de Santander No. 9-4B, 11007, Cadiz, Spain.

FOOTBALL is my life. I'm 18 and seeking penpals. All letters answered in English.
— Menassie Mulugeta, Box 22928, Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia.

HOLLAND and Liverpool fan would like penfriends anywhere, aged 14-100.
— Kareem Muhsin, PO Box 14271, Baghdad, Iraq.

FOREST and Manchester United supporter, 16, seeks penpals m/f, age age.
— Lucina Lo. Room 14, floor 33, Tsg Fung House, Fung Tak, Wong Tai Sing, Hong Kong.

FOOTBALLER-FAN wants to correspond with sportsmen/women, worldwide.
— Joe Asamoah, c/o Hansbed Agency, PO Box 8530, Accra, Ghana.

LIVERPOOL fan, 38, requires m/f penpals worldwide, especially in US. All letters answered.
— Peter Cornfoot, 8 Moorside Crescnet, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury, West Yorks WF13 4QL, England.

POLISH fan, 19, wants to write to UK fans.
— Grzegorz Pyt, Ul. L. Staffa 4/A, 39-300 Mielec, Poland.

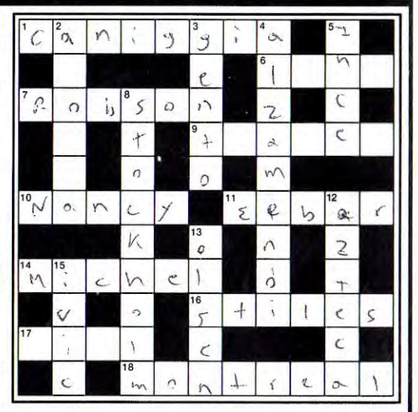
FEMALE, 16, supports Manchester United and AC Milan, seeks penfriends m/f, anywhere. Please write in English.
— Annette Outtrim, 37 Maddens Road, North Richmond, NSW 2754, Australia.

SECOND DIVISION footballer seeks penapls all over the world.
— Newman Bediako, PO Box 8530, Accra, Ghana.

BULGARIAN fans want to correspond with supporters in England.
— Todor Enev, 170 Dunav Ave.,4003 Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY **Christine Ansell**



ACROSS

1. Atalanta's Argentine forward banned from the 1990 World Cup final (8)
6. Austrian city where Spurs played a 1991 E.C.WC. tie against Hajduk Split (4)
7. Skipper of the 1991 E.C.W.C. winners (6)
9. New England NASL club of the 70s (3,3)
10. Lorraine club promoted to the French First Division in 1990 (5)
11. Brazilian forward of Grasshopper fame (5)
14. Spaniard who scored a hat-trick v. S.Korea at Italia '90 (6)
16. Tough-tackling Man Utd hero of England's 1966 World Cup side (6)
17. TV pundit in the Fulham chair (4)
18. Canadian city, home of the Supra club (8)

DOWN

2. Stadium of Real Sociedad (6)
3. Spanish winger featuring in eight European Cup finals for Real (5)
4. Uruguayan elected South America's Footballer of the Year, 1986 (9)
5. Former W. Ham and England U-21 midfielder at Man Utd (4)
8. City schedules to host this year's European Championship final (9)
12. Stadium in which the 1970 and 1986 World Cup finals were played (6)
13. Anderlecht defender in Denmark's 1986 World Cup side (5)
15. Former Atletico Madrid coach in charge at Marseille (4)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION

Across: 7. Rioch 8. Udine 9. Hassler 10. AEK 11. Mali 13. Hagi 17. PSV 18. Ecuador 20. Scifo 21. Teale

Down : 1. Graham 2. Rouse, 3. Chile 4. Futre 5. Tigana 6. Beck 12. Levein 14. Israel 15. Demol 16. Kuntz 17. Pisa 19. Diaz

Exchanges

BULGARIAN fan of English soccer wants to exchange souvenirs, including autographed postcards.
— Evgeni Mihov Marinov, Vidima St. 7/A/ 16, BG-5300 Gabrovo, Bulgaria.

TICKETS, badges, programmes etc. for exchange and sale.
— Florian Som, Str. Eminescu Rodica Et. 3/C, Ploiesti Sud, Romania.

BADGE collector seeks contacts abroad.
— Yurijn Baranov, Rashupkina St. 7-168, 121374 Moscow.

FLAGS, scarves, badges etc. for exchange.
— Vladimir Ivanov, Verbitzky St. d. 2Y, ko, 73, Kiev, Ukraine.

MANY items for exchange, such as tickets, programmes, posters and badges.
— Chiril Niculescu, 0213 Ghirdoveni (DB), NR. 1174, Romania.

PHOTOS of Spanish national team and AC Milan wanted, in exchange for Hungarian pictures.
— Balazs Fureder, Pecsko Urdan, 3100 Salgothary, Hungary.

BENFICA fan wants to exchange tickets, pennants, programmes, badges.
— Paulo Ferreria, R. Antonio Nobre 4, 8ESQ, 2800 Almada, Portugal.

Book Reviews

MORE THAN A JOB?

By Roger Titford and Eamon Dunphy (£4.95) from Further Thought Publishing, Clumber Cottage, High Street, Upavon, Wilts, SN9 6EA.

How Reading came to win promotion from the Fourth Division in 1975-76, compiled by a fan (Titford) and a player (Dunphy).

An interesting oddity, particularly Dunphy's columns, reprinted from the local paper.

His wide-ranging views and criticisms would never be allowed by a club board nowadays.

Strangely, for a man so perceptive about motivation and method, Dunphy's memory in the interview bits is remarkably faulty, even allowing for the passage of time.

If *you* scored two goals in a vital 2-1, 10-man win, you would remember it for the rest of your life, wouldn't you? Dunphy vaguely recalls doing so, thinking it happened in a 3-2 defeat of a club 200 miles away.

WHO'S WHO OF WELSH INTERNATIONAL SOCCER PLAYERS

By Gareth M. Davies and Ian Garland (£16.95) from Bridge Books, 61 Park Avenue, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL12 7AW.

A staggeringly comprehensive labour of love, detailing dates of birth and death, playing progress, caps and medals, games and goals.

All the 600-plus Welsh internationals are there. Every Jones and Davies, every Thomas and Williams, and everybody else, including Morgan Maddox Morgan-Owen ("the greatest Corinthian of the Edwardian period") and England's Stan Mortensen, who made a guest appearance as a wartime substitute for the Welsh.

The detail even extends to what happened after the last ball was kicked, right down to the names of three pubs run by one ex-hero.

As David Coleman might say, quite remarkable.

for Sale

POSTCARDS of football grounds, b/w. I pay very well.
— Giovanni Arbuffi, Via Macedonia 10093 Collegno (Torino), Italy.

REPLICA shirts of Maltese and Italian teams wanted, also any other souvenirs. All letters answered.
— Chris Cassar, 46 Cameron St., Gzira GZR: 02, Malta.

Wanted

VERY low prices: badges, keyrings, hats, pennants etc.
— Ditta Dragos, Al. Godeanu, Bl. 118 Ap. 15, Ploiesti Vest, Romania.

SEND 15 US dollars or 25 DM for catalogue of all Romanian football badges. Exchanges possible.
— Nicu Platon, Cas. Post 181, 370 Oradea 1, Romania.

The
KEIR RADNEDGE
COMMENTARY
Magazine Sports Writer of the Year

One man's dream becomes reality . . . Real Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu, which was funded by a bond scheme.

Simply confused over the cost of keeping fans happy

ARTHUR ROWE, manager of Tottenham's push-and-run team soon after the war, was the sage credited with saying: Football is a simple game, it's players who make it complicated.

If Rowe were still with us he might think he had been a little hard on the players and transferred his hostility to officials, to directors and football politicians.

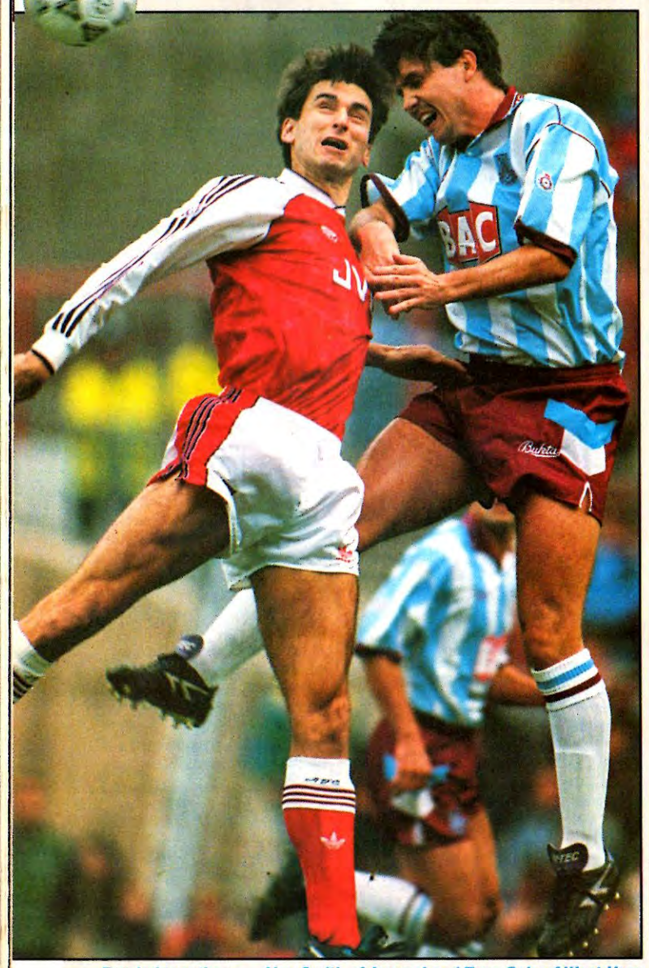
Frequently it appears that the game's administrators go out of their way to be ham-fisted about any particular project. Lessons go unheeded. The game is governed by knee-jerk reaction and crisis management.

On one score Rowe would not bend. Football really is a simple game: simple rules, simple equipment. But even the most rudimentary of kick-abouts demands certain prerequisites: a ball, a goal and a pitch. And providing that very stage, at the most sophisticated of levels, is a challenge exposing all the executive stresses and strains at work in today's domestic game.

English clubs face problems unique in the world game. Frequent calls are made for administrators within the FA and the League to take a cue from their continental cousins. But solutions applied in Italy, Germany, France and Spain are not necessarily relevant here. Nor, for that matter, are solutions applied in Scotland.

For example, in Italy and Germany most stadia are owned by the local authorities. Milan and Bayern Munich do not have to worry about capital costs. At the simplest level, they are mere tenants in, respectively, the Stadio Meazza at San Siro and the Olympiastadion. They pay "only" rental; responsibility for maintenance, security, comfort and facilities remains in the hands of the municipal authority — or whichever holding company they appoint.

Local authorities in both Italy and Germany have benefited from government grants made available to help with stadia redevelopment for international events. The Germans staged the World Cup finals in 1974, then the finals of the European Championship in 1988; on both occasions grants were forthcoming because the government appreciated they were investing in municipal facilities.



Bonded together . . . Alan Smith of Arsenal and Tony Gale of West Ham.

The same applied with Italy for the World Cup two years ago. Millions of pounds were spent building new stadia in Palermo, Turin and Bari — the latter surely one of the wonders of the soccer world — and virtually recreating the stadia in Florence and Genoa. Milan's Stadio Meazza was refurbished, extended and provided with full-stand covering. This had repercussions in terms of pitch maintenance but that's another story.

France used the opportunity of the 1984 European Championship finals to upgrade their stadia and government money already has been promised and allocated for further work once FIFA, as expected this summer, confirm France as venue for the finals of the 1998 World Cup.

A new main stadium will be built outside Paris, superceding the Parc des Princes which, though less than 20 years old, is already considered outmoded. For one thing it holds only 50,000, albeit all-seated; for another there is no convenient car-parking. And that, more and more these days, is a key to pulling in the crowds.

Spain boasts a hybrid system. Stadia at senior competitive level are generally owned by the clubs. All have been either built, or extensively renovated, within the last 40 years. Spain's clubs also had the benefit of government grants and World Cup profits to fund building for the 1982 finals.

Not all took the opportunity to compete for matches and, consequently, money. Real Sociedad of San Sebastian were one club who decided the effort would not pay off. Now they face massively inflated estimates as they consider, more than a decade too late, finding a new home away from their traditional, old Atocha stadium.

Controversy

At a time when bond schemes are the subject of controversy, it's intriguing to look back and see that Spain's first major stadium project — Real Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu — was funded by a bond scheme.

The stadium was the brainchild of the club's legendary president, Santiago Bernabeu. It was his first venture after he took control of the club 50 years ago. Madrid's old ground, near the Chamartin railway station, held around 12,000 fans. It was tatty and dilapidated and had not recovered from damage inflicted during the Spanish Civil War.

Bernabeu decided to build a new stadium, on the vast surrounding screed of waste land. He wanted a capacity of 75,000 — and his fellow directors thought he had lost his senses. But Bernabeu was a man of rare vision. He told them: "If we build the stadium people will come out of curiosity and the money we will use to build a team worthy of them and of the club and of the ground."

He put bonds on sale. Not shares — there was no financial incentive nor investment connotation and, anyway, Spanish football clubs were not run as limited companies. But, in return, Bernabeu offered membership rights within the club. Ordinary fans queued at the club's office to "buy in." In one day the entire £200,000 allocation was taken up and, in 1947, the new stadium was duly inaugurated with a match against the Portuguese club, Belenenses.

Later Bernabeu, thus encouraged, launched further bond schemes to finance extra tiers of terracing and seating which took the capacity to 125,000 in time — happily and coincidentally — for the launching of the European Champions' Cup.

Madrid pulled in big crowds, made big money, bought great players. It was a self-perpetuating circle of success. Other clubs copied and caught up. But Bernabeu's vision was the key and Spanish football owes him a huge debt.

Bernabeu's bond system varied in one key area from more recent proposals. Spanish football clubs always traditionally have been private clubs run by members who vote on issues and personnel at the annual meeting. The fans who bought Madrid's bonds bought, along with them, membership and voting rights.

English clubs must operate capital-raising schemes which suit their own sporting environment. Most city clubs cannot expand their stadia or create huge car parks such as those familiar on the continent. Land prices and planning regulations are prohibitive.

Tottenham, under the past regime of Irving Scholar, went for a public company structure with shares trading on the Stock Exchange. Popularly now it is "going public" which is blamed for Tottenham's financial disaster. But that misses the point. Tottenham landed up a stone's throw from Carey Street because the diversifying activities the flotation no doubt financed turned sour for one reason or another.

Investment errors? Managerial mistakes? Too late to worry, now. But the clear signal had gone out to the rest of the domestic game: don't trust public company status.

Hardly surprising, then, that Arsenal and West Ham would go for bond schemes. The idea had worked successfully for the Scottish Rugby Union at Murrayfield and then again with Rangers. So why shouldn't it have been welcomed with open arms in England?

Two reasons: first, while Arsenal and West Ham are big clubs, Rangers are — in their own Glasgow context — giants. Fan loyalty, interest and commitment are built on very different foundations.

Second, English fans, tired of being herded around like caged animals, began to understand their own power and resent those on high who tried to dictate to them.

The "old soldier" mentality — obey orders from your officers, your elders and your betters — has gone. Fans will not be pushed around. They have learned the lesson of Thatcher years: everything has a financial price. Even the loyalty of fans. They will not pay for tomorrow's promise, only for today's power.

It's very late in the day, of course. If fans had used their mental muscle earlier they might not today be watching football in stadia which — despite all the recent works — have long passed their sell-by dates.

Considered

Arsenal and West Ham may well have considered the shares option and rejected it because, one, their pride would not stand copying London rivals and, two, because the shares option was judged a failure (wrongly, in my opinion).

Now both have run into stern terrace opposition for the nature of their bond schemes which appear to offer, in return for hard cash, only the right to spend still more buying the relevant season ticket.

We have an impasse. Some directors think that a change of government in the forthcoming General Election could precipitate a relaxation of safety demands. That the puzzle of new funds could be shelved. Clubs would be unwise to put too much faith there.

However, one trick, perhaps, is being missed. The FA estimate that staging the European Championship finals here in 1996 — as they hope — would cost comparative peanuts. After all, the necessary stadia work will have been carried out, largely at the clubs' own expense, to fall in line with the Taylor Report.

Maybe the boot should be on the other foot. Maybe the FA and the government should recognise the national promotional value of the finals and invest in the stadia involved.

It didn't do Germany any harm. Or Spain. Or Italy.

CIS MAY MISS THE BOAT TO SWEDEN

THE Commonwealth of Independent States is already, after less than three months, a soccer anachronism.

The CIS was always seen as a short-term measure designed to help the key republics of the former Soviet Union — Russia and Ukraine — maintain the sporting high profile they so badly need.

Ukraine blew that scheme out of the window when their federation decided to abandon the old Soviet championship and seek independent membership of FIFA. The one, saving, concession to the CIS was permitting Ukraine players to appear for the CIS at the European Championship finals in Sweden.

Three things have happened since then.

● The CIS (and Yugoslavia) have been set an April 1 deadline to confirm their presence at the finals of the European Championship.

● A restructured CIS (ex-Soviet) championship (without Ukraine) has collapsed because the Moscow clubs say they cannot afford the long-distance travel and are worried about security in distant republics.

● FIFA and UEFA have reiterated their confidence in the CIS as the successor to the Soviet Union.

CIS style . . . Igor Shalimov (red) clashes with Magnus Erlingmark of Sweden.

However, despite all the good intentions in Switzerland as the international bodies try to prop up the CIS, it may already be too late.

If the CIS federation is incapable of running a championship across what remains of the Soviet Union, what right can it claim to raise a truly "national" team?

UEFA and FIFA are bending over backwards to try to help beleagured federation president (and FIFA vice-president) Viacheslav Koloskov. He put a lot of backs up, however, when he used a congratulatory letter from UEFA secretary Gerd Aigner — meant to note the transition from Soviet federation to CIS federation — as a personal vote of confidence.

Koloskov is a personable man and a wily football politician. He has pleaded the cause of the ex-Soviet players strongly. Ideally, the men who put in the effort on the pitch to bring the Soviet Union/CIS to the European finals should be given the chance to appear there.

But even Koloskov may now be too far out on his limb.

The CIS appears, day by day, less and less of a credible political and sporting entity. The fragmented participation of "The United Team" at the Winter Olympics underlined the problem.

If the CIS do go to Sweden it will be as a sort of guest, All-Star selection. UEFA may seriously have to question whether, under those circumstances, they can do themselves — and the championship — justice.

The prospect of Italy slipping in through the back door is not as fanciful as it once appeared.

? **SHOULD the CIS go to Sweden? What do you think? Tell us. Write to: CIS/Sweden, WORLD SOCCER, 25th floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.**

KEEP THOSE ENTRIES COMING

JUST A reminder: last month we invited entries of an all-time European Championship select XI. One of the European Championship sponsors, Eurocard-MasterCard, are running just such a quiz competition among the media.

They are offering three prizes for our readers whose selections match those ultimately culled from the Press. The results will not be announced until during the finals in Sweden but there's no harm in sending in your selection now, on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope, to: Eurocard Competition, WORLD SOCCER, 25th floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

S. America

Carlos joins exodus from Europe

YET another Colombian has returned from Europe after being unable to maintain the form that made him such an attraction in the first place.

Carlos Valderrama, captain of the national team, left Deportivo Cali for French club Montpellier in 1988 and moved to Vallodolid in Spain last year. But things did not work out for him there, and he has now joined Independiente of Medellin.

Higuita . . . without a club.

Goalkeeper Rene Higuita also has left Valladolid and gone back to his homeland, although at the time of writing he had not found a new club.

And Leonel Alvarez, the third Colombian at Valladolid, seemed likely to return to South America before long.

Ten Colombians have moved to Europe in less than two years but all of them have since left.

The ten include Bernardo Redin of Deportivo Cali, who had a brief spell with CSKA Sredets in Bulgaria. "Brief" is the word — he was there from March to July. Now Redin has switched to another Cali club, America.

He has 37 caps and at 28 years of age he has time to win more, but some people doubt the wisdom of the move.

On the coaching front there have been several surprises. New boys Envigado created the biggest splash by appointing Luis "Chiqui" Garcia, who coached club side Quindio, as well as the Colombian national side, during 1991.

Garcia is hoping to augment his squad with some ex-internationals such as Ruben Dario Hernandez and Jaime Arango (both of Nacional) and Wilman Conde, of Millonarios.

Millonarios also have a new coach — Moises Pachon, well known in Bogota as an ex-player with Santa Fe and a coach to the city's youth side. He coached Cristal Caldas in 1990.

In Cali, America appointed Diego Edison Umana as successor to Gabriel Ochoa, who retired in January. Umana, a former Colombian international, has been America's reserve-team coach for the past two years, having been coach at Santa Fe during 1989.

He played for Deportivo Cali, appearing briefly in the 1978 Libertadores Cup Final. Under Ochoa, America won seven championships between 1979 and 1990.

WORLD SOCCER reported last year that the Union Magdalena club from the city of Santa Marta had moved to Cartagena. Now there is a new team in town after a group of Cartagena businessmen bought Sporting Barranquilla and relocated it in their city.

For Sporting, now Sporting Cartagena, it will be a fresh start away from a city where the club were in the shade of the more popular Junior. Sporting drew only 6,000 spectators compared with Junior's 30,000.

For Union Magdalena it means moving back to Santa Marta, because Cartagena simply is not big enough for two means. Union's gates increased from almost 3,000 in Santa Marta to 11,000 in Cartagena.

KEITH **SMITH**

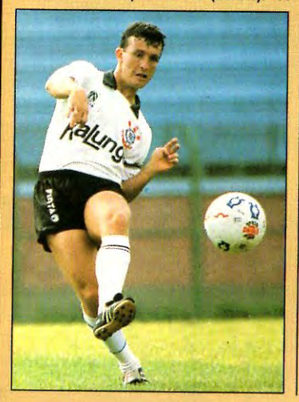
PLAYER POWER, FAN POWER

THEY COMBINE TO GET CILINHO THE SACK

BRAZIL BY BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

NO television weather forecaster could have predicted the storms that blew up over Corinthians in the first weeks of 1992.

Two weeks before the start of the Brazilian championship, manager Cilinho decided to axe the club's two best-known and highest-paid players: midfielder Marcio and — who else? — controversial captain Neto (below). "A



player has to do something on the pitch and not just live on his name," said Cilino, without naming names. "There are players who have been producing very little." The two were stopped as they attempted to board the bus taking the players to their pre-season training camp . . . but Cilinho, having taken Corinthians to the final of the Sao Paulo championship last year, ended up on the sidelines.

Two days later, after the club switchboard had been jammed with calls from angry fans, vice-president Vicente Matheus ordered Cilinho to put the two back in the team. Cilinho refused and was promptly sacked, to be replaced by Basilio.

"It was him or me," said Neto. "I have scored 50 goals in three years at Corinthians." The two have never got on. The problems began in 1987, when Cilinho was manager of Sao Paulo. Neto went there on loan, ended up in the reserves and then went through the worst year of his career. Cilinho and Neto went their separate ways until last July, when Cilinho was appointed manager of Corinthians to replace Carlos Alberto Silva. This time he kept Neto in the team but their mutual disliking was always uncomfortably close to the surface.

More petrol was poured on the fire when Corinthians, with Neto reinstated as captain, were trounced 4-1 at home by a revitalised Vasco da Gama in the first game of the season.

Vasco scored three of their goals with ten men, after Luisinho had been harshly sent off early in the second half.

Corinthians showed little spirit and were booed off by irate supporters.

When, in customary Brazilian fashion, around two dozen microphones were shoved into Neto's face as he left the pitch, he refused to make any comment.

What a way for him to make his comeback. This, remember, was his first match back since he was banned for spitting at a referee last year.

Sao Paulo power

As usual, the Brazilian "championship", which runs from the end of January until mid-June, is neither league nor cup.

It starts with the 20 teams playing each other once, then turns into a knockout with the top eight teams going on to decide the competition on a straightforward knockout basis (two legs in each round).

Maybe we should be thankful for small mercies. Some of the clubs had been pressing the CBF into putting 32 teams into the competition. But, the CBF stood firm and kept the 20 limit.

In previous years, there has been little to choose between the sides. This time, however, one club stand head and shoulders above the rest: Sao Paulo.

They deservedly won both the Brazilian championship and Sao Paulo championship last year. This time, coach Santana, despite numerous threats to leave, has stayed, as have the most important members of his squad.

Showed

Rai, the younger brother of Socrates, is the playmaker. Other key players are winger Elivelton, the inconsistent Macedo, defenders Antonio Carlos and Cafu, and ex-international Muller.

Sao Paulo's main aim this year, however, is the Libertadores Cup, and ultimately a place in Tokyo.

Vasco da Gama showed against Corinthians that they could pose a real threat to Santana's team.

Nelsinho, who was in charge when they won the competition in 1989, has been brought back as manager to replace the ultra-defensive Antonio Lopes, so perhaps at last the Vasco team can do themselves justice.

Cruzeiro from Belo Horizonte must be considered after the way they destroyed River Plate in the final of last year's Supercup. The Argentines will be the first to acknowledge the danger posed by the front-line partnership of Mario Tilico (on loan from Sao Paulo) and Charles. Flamengo will depend largely on veteran midfielder Junior, who inspired their win in the Rio de Janeiro championship.

Fluminense have dispensed with Edinho after the parties failed to agree on the renewal of his contract. Without him, however, their chances look slim.

The directors have been keeping their wallets shut so Arthur Bernardes, Edinho's replacement, will have to make do with a group of mainly unknown players.

Winners . . . Sao Paulo captain Rai with the Sao Paulo State trophy.

Botafogo have regained Renato Portaluppi, but the main asset is Valdeir.

The close season is a strange period in Brazil. Few players have contracts of more than a few months and can take weeks of painful negotiations to renew.

Players often forced to wait outside the office for hours on end. Managers, meanwhile, are forced to undergo pre-season training not really knowing who will be available.

The turnover of players in Brazil is extraordinarily high, and complicated loan deals are common. This year has been unusually quiet, mainly because most clubs are starved of cash. The main moves have been those of veteran goalkeeper Carlos from Guarani to Palmeiras, fellow goalkeeper Ze Carlos (Flamengo to Atletico Mineiro) and Luis Carlos Winck (Internacional to Vasco).

Santos have bought defender Bernardo from Bayern Munich and Guga from Internacional of Limeira.

The national team, under the new Parreira-Zagalo partnership, also showed signs of life in beating Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia last year.

The new spirit seems even to have got to the directors. CBF president Ricardo Teixeira began the season by announcing an "amnesty." The beneficiaries include Neto, who had his four-month ban lifted in time to start the season, and Flamengo, who last year took the CBF to court over Teixeira's re-election.

Teixeira even announced that he would allow the clubs to vote at the next CBF presidential election. Previously he had fought tooth and nail to keep voting restricted to presidents of the 27 state federations. Will it all last?

Colo Colo still rolling along

CHILE BY ERIC **WEIL**

COLO COLO'S third succesive Chilean championship equalled the record set by Magallanes in 1933-35, soon after the start of professionalism in the country.

In spite of the 3-0 defeat by Red Star Belgrade in the World Club Cup in Tokyo, 1991 was still a great year for Colo Colo.

They became the first Chilean club to win the Libertadores Cup, and provided eight players for the Copa America squad. The 1991 title was their 18th, easily the highest in Chile.

The club's solvent position — after being in financial trouble a few years back — was shown again recently when they bought an old indoor stadium in Santiago for two million dollars. They will be running sports events, starting with five-a-side, a sport which they also are in the process of organising officially.

Only a year earlier Colo Colo had inaugurated a new stadium, the Monumental, with a 60,000 capacity.

We might be wrong . . . but we think Colo Colo have scored. Coach Mirko Jozic (right) points the way to further success.

Second

Ruben Martinez, the revelation of the season, finished as championship top scorer for the third year, with 23 goals.

In 1990 he scored 22, and in 1989 he hit 26, while playing for Cobreloa.

Colo Colo have signed former Argentine international midfielder Claudio Borghi, Uruguayan international defender Mario Rebollo and Chilean Anibal Gonzalez, second highest scorer in the League behind Martinez last season.

This brought their foreigners to five — four is the maximum — but goalkeeper Moron was about to take out Chilean nationality.

The surprise of the season were second-placed Coquimbo Unido, a modest provincial team who had only just been promoted. With no outstanding stars, they based their success on team work, stamina, fighting spirit and discipline.

The disappointment, on the other hand, were Chile's other big and popular club, Universidad Catolica, who had numerous outstanding players, notably Argentina's Gerardo Reinoso, and were expected to finish higher than third.

Universidad, however, easily won the play-offs to qualify as the third team in this year's Libertadores Cup.

Colo Colo have opted to play from the first round, for financial reasons, they say. Cup holders are usually given a bye into the second round.

NEW TOURNAMENT IN PROSPECT

BY ERIC **WEIL**

SOUTH AMERICAN international activity is focused this year on the year's Olympic Games.

The continent's pre-Olympic tournament, from which two teams qualified for Barcelona, will have been held in Asuncion, Paraguay, as you read this.

But officials of CONMEBOL, the South American Soccer Confederation, are looking further ahead.

Presidents of four continental confederations — Africa, Asia, CONCACAF (Central and North American and Caribbean) and CONMEBOL — met to lay the foundations of a bi-annual inter-confederation tournament. The first will be held in October, in an Asian country to be decided, with subsequent venues being rotated.

The continental champions, Argentina (CONMEBOL) and US (CONCACAF), qualify for the new event.

A further meeting was scheduled to settle definite details, but the absence so far of Europe (UEFA) seems strange.

Meanwhile the winners of the Libertadores and Super Cups will meet in their annual clash in Japan, at Kobe on April 19. The clubs are Colo Colo of Chile and Cruzeiro of Brazil.

The trophy was not contested last year, as Paraguay's Olimpia won both the Libertadores and Super Cups in 1990. The Super Cup is a tournament for all previous Libertadores Cup winners.

Argentina, Spain, Italy and Colombia will play for the Cristobal Colon Cup in Colombia from May 31 to June 7, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of America's discovery.

BOLIVAR ARE THE BEST

BOLIVIA: Bolivar of La Paz became national champions after beating the previous winners, Oriente Petrolero, over three matches in the finals of the season's second tournament.

Bolivar won the first leg 5-0, lost the second 3-1, then won the play-off 1-0. They also had won the first of the season's tournaments.

The two runners-up, Oriente Petrolero and San Jose, were due to play off for the second Libertadores Cup place.

Bolivar have a virtual international line-up — Bolivians Marco Barrero, Carlos Borja, Vladimir Soria, Fernando Salinas, Marco Ferrufino and Peruvians Jorge Hirano and Jorge Olaechea.

Four Argentine non-internationals complete the team: Carlos Trucco, Carlos A. Lopez, Daniel Hernandez and Juan Urruti.

COACH SACKED FOR DRUGS OFFENCES

CARLOS REINOSO became the fifth foreign coach to lose his job during the first stage of the Mexican championship — because of drugs offences.

Reinoso, a Chilean, was sacked by Universidad de Nuevo Leon after giving drugs to some of his players.

One, Antonio Pina, claimed that he had needed to undertake a cure to rid him of the habit after taking pills in an effort to improve his performance on the field.

Although Reinoso denied the allegations, the club decided that he had to go.

Signed

Clubs are allowed to change one foreign player at the halfway stage in the championship, and two broke new ground by signing outsiders.

Scott Benedetti, an American, joined UNAM, and Universidad de Guadalajara signed an African, Isaac Ayipei.

Atlante, unfancied at the start of the season, had the best overall record as the top two in each of four groups advanced towards the quarter-final play-offs.

Diego keeps them guessing

DIEGO MARADONA has kept people guessing whether he intends to carry on playing when his 15-month ban is over.

His last "no" seemed to have been final and he also expressed his intention of leaving Argentina this year — probably for the United States, to play indoor soccer.

Maradona now owns a racehorse and gained his first success when his colt, Midri, won a race at the San Isidro track on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

That same weekend he said: "I may play again, because my younger daughter, Yanina, is always saying she has never seen me play." One reason is as good as another!

GUATELMALA:

OFFICIALS were going to withdraw the national team from the 1994 World Cup because of a twin shortage — money and preparation.

But President Serrano insisted that the team should take part.

First-round games in the CONCACAF qualifying section were due to take place this month.

EL SALVADOR:

A TOURNAMENT is being organised to raise funds for the country, ravaged by civil war.

The champions and vice-champions of the host country, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatelmala are to take part, without charge. Dates have not yet been finalised.

VENEZUELA:

MARITIMO shared the lead with Minerven approaching the First Division championship's halfway stage.

Minerven, from the main soccer centre of San Cristobal, were recently watched by 30,000 — a League attendance unheard of until a short time ago.

COSTA RICA:

SEVEN of the 12 clubs began the championship race with foreign players, and seven have foreign coaches.

The men in charge include two Czechoslovakians — Jan Postulka with champions Alajuelense and Joseph Bouska with Herediano.

Heber Mastrangelo, who comes from Argentina, is at Cartajines, who are trying to win the title after a 52-year gap.

There is also an outsider in charge of the Costa Rican national team: Antonio Movano Reina, who is a Spaniard.

URUGUAY:

SIX teams were fighting for two Libertadores Cup places in the end-of-season "Liguilla" and after three of the five games the season's First Division champions, Defensor Sporting, were top with full points.

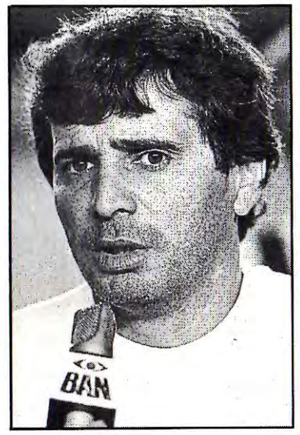
Nacional and Penarol — the latter with recently acquired former Argentine international midfielder Jose Percudani and striker Sergio Martinez — were two points behind.

PERU:

THE 16 clubs due to form this season's First Division are refusing to start the season if their number is increased.

For the past four years there have been 44 First Division teams (qualifying in five geographical zones), but in view of the poor financial and sporting results the number was reduced to 16 for this year. Now the 16 are protesting against government pressure to increase the number again by favouring certain areas.

Meanwhile vice-champions Sport Boys are strengthening their team, having signed Brazilian coach Edu (right) who is Zico's brother. He intends to recruit several Brazilian players, because there is not likely to be a maximum on foreigners in the next championship.



News in brief

● **Oscar Ruggeri (left)**, the Argentine captain, was named ***South American Player of the Year*** in a poll organised by the Montevideo newspaper ***El Pais***, among 70 journalists.

Ruggeri received 44 votes, followed by **Ramon Diaz** (Argentina) 28, **Patricio Toledo** (Chile) 23, **Leonardo Astrada** (Argentina) 21, **Juan Jose Borrelli** (Argentina) 18, **Mario Tilico** (Brazil) 18, **Gabriel Mendoza** (Chile) 15, **Fabian Basualdo** (Argentina) 13, **Jose del Solar** (Peru) 13, **Diego Latorre** (Argentina) 12, **Holger Quinones** (Ecuador) 12, **Julio Dely Valdez** (Panama, playing in Uruguay) 12.

● **Alfio Basile (above)**, the Argentine national team boss, was voted top coach while an **all-star South American team** was picked as follows: **Toledo** (Chile), **Mendoza** (Chile), **Ruggeri** (Argentina), **Quinonez** (Ecuador), **del Solar** (Peru), **Borrelli** (Argentina), **Astrada** (Argentina), **Latorre** (Argentina), **Tilico** (Brazil), **Diaz** (Argentina), **Dely Valdez** (Panama).

● **Mario Kempes**, Argentina's 1978 World Cup hero, who recently finished his career in Austria, had a working holiday in the Uruguayan resort of Punta de Este. He ran a soccer school with another 1978 winner, defender **Alberto Tarantini**, who had a brief spell with Birmingham.

● **Junior**, still starring for Rio's Flamengo at 39, has signed another six-month contract. He was voted the Rio league's top player at the end of last season.

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diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by **KEIR RADNEDGE**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

HUNGARY: Emerich Jenei, former Champions' Cup-winning manager of Steaua Bucharest, is appointed new manager of Hungary. He succeeds Robert Glazer, who had been operating as caretaker since the departure of Kalman Meszoly.

ITALY: France are proclaimed Europe's top national team by a poll in the daily newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport . . . the Florence council agrees that the Stadio Comunale will, from January, be renamed the Stadio Artemio Franchi in memory of the late president of the Italian federation.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star's Dejan Savicevic is voted Footballer of the Year. Runner-up is Miodrag Beloldedic with Darko Pancev third.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

AUSTRIA: Tirol's Argentine midfielder, Nestor Gorosito, is voted Footballer of the Year in a poll of first division coaches.

SPAIN: Colombia goalkeeper Rene Higuita, heavily criticised and claiming he has not been paid, says he intends quitting struggling Valladolid and returning home.

YUGOSLAVIA: The separatist-seeking Croatian federation apply to UEFA to enter teams in next season's European club competitions.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

FRANCE: Nantes are told by the FFF's accounts committee that, because they are £4million in debt, the signing of Johnny Molby from Vejle will not be ratified by the federation.

MEXICO: Luis Garcia, the championship's 12-goal top scorer, signs an option with Atletico Madrid.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

BULGARIA: Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov is voted Footballer of the Year.

COSTA RICA: Antonio Ruiz, Champions' Cup-winning defender with Real Madrid in the 1950s, is favourite to be appointed new national manager in succession to another Spaniard, Antonio Moyano.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

DENMARK: AGF Arhus agree to sign Aston Villa defender Kent Nielsen. The transfer will be completed on February 1. Nielsen wants to return home to strengthen his prospects of selection for the World Cup qualifiers.

GREECE: A Piraeus court orders the confiscation of £4.5million of assets and future income from Olympiakos to pay Kiev Dynamo for the transfers of Oleg Protasov and Genadi Litovchenko. The two players, plus Yuri Savichev, have lodged separate claims against the club for an unpaid £250,000 in wages.

OBITUARY

ALAN DAVIES, the 30-year-old Swansea and former Manchester United, Newcastle, Bradford and Carlisle winger, is found dead in his car at a beauty spot just outside Swansea. Davies, then a comparative unknown, won an FA Cup-winners' medal with United in 1983 and played 11 times for Wales. He was unlucky with injuries in his career. Davies leaves a widow, Debbie, who was eight months pregnant at the time of his death on February 5, and a daughter, aged eight.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

GERMANY: Bayern appoint Gerd Muller, their 1970s star marksman, to the scouting staff as a gesture to help him in his fight against alcoholism.

SPAIN: Midfielder Fernando Hierro, surprise top scorer in the league with 11 goals, signs a new five-year contract with Real Madrid.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

ACTION: Leeds are held 1-1 at home by Manchester United in England's top-of-the-table duel, the first of a scheduled three meetings between the clubs in league and cups in eight days . . . Olympiakos put their legal problems behind long enough to thrash Serres 7-0 and join Panathinaikos, Apollon and AEK in a four-way tie at the top of the Greek championship. The Soviet trio return in triumph after a 40-day strike: Protasov scores twice, Litovchenko and Savichev one each . . . Porto edge further ahead in Portugal, beating Gil Vicente 1-0 while Benfica are surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Penafiel.

SOVIET UNION: Igor Kolivanov, recently sold from Moscow Dynamo to Italy's Foggia, is voted the Soviet Union's last Footballer of the Year. Kolivanov was top scorer with 18 goals in the last Soviet championship. Poll runner-up is Moscow Spartak's Alexander Mostovoi.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

ITALY: Lazio coach Dino Zoff agrees a two-year contract extension.

UNITED STATES: Uncertainty surrounds the World Cup venue prospects of the Pontiac Superdome after city officials put it up for sale as part of an economic streamlining following General Motors' local cutbacks.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

ARGENTINA: Alfio Basile names his squad for the Olympic qualifying tournament being played in Asuncion, Paraguay, between January 31 and February 16.

ITALY: Zvonimir Boban flies back to Bari after being temporarily detained in Zagreb by local army officials who wanted him to undertake national service in the Croatian militia in the civil war. Bari and Milan (Boban's "real" club) have to fax Italian residency papers before Boban is released.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

ACTION: Celtic lose 3-1 at home to Rangers in Scotland's traditional Ne'erday derby.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

FRANCE: The Paris-based magazine Afrique Football names Marseille's Abedi Ayew Pele as the African Footballer of the Year. He polls 206 votes, followed by Liberia's George Weah (Monaco, 146 votes) and Ghana's Nii Lamptey (Anderlecht, 68).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

ENGLAND: Chelsea youngster Frank Sinclair is charged with bringing the game into disrepute after an incident with a referee during Sinclair's loan to third division West Bromwich.

SPAIN: Real Madrid's Yugoslav star, Robert Prosinecki, undergoes surgery to repair a thigh muscle torn in training. Blame for Prosinecki's recurring injury problems is laid at the door of Red Star Belgrade, for not allowing him sufficient rest between strains last season.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

ACTION: Egypt beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 in Cairo in an international friendly which serves as part of the hosts' African championship preparations.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid inflict neighbours Real Madrid's first league of the season. Atletico win 2-0 with goals from Vizcaino and Manolo.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:

ALAIN GOUAMENE . . .

goalkeeper who was more responsible than any other player for Ivory Coast's remarkable victory in the African Nations' Cup.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

ACTION: The Greek league has five teams level on points at the top after PAOK win 2-1 against Korinthos to pull level with Panathinaikos, AEK Athens, Apollon and Olympiakos . . . Milan, "close to perfection" according to Marco Van Basten, beat Napoli 5-0 in Italy. Bari move off the bottom thanks to their first win of the season, 1-0 at home to Cagliari . . . Porto are held 1-1 by Guimaraes, meaning keeper Vitor Baia's clean sheet run is ended after a domestic record 1,192 minutes . . . Barcelona win 2-1 away to Mallorca to move up to third place in Spain with goals from Koeman and Laudrup.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says that when all his legal problems have been resolved he wants to take his family to a new, anonymous home in Florida. The US state department responds that, if he should possess a drugs record, he may not be allowed into the country.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

ENGLAND: John Barnes, out injured for most of the season, scores a hat-trick on his return in Liverpool's 4-0 FA Cup win over Crewe.

FRANCE: Auxerre goalkeeper Bruno Martini breaks a leg in a friendly training match and is ruled out for two or three months, meaning he will probably miss the Wembley friendly against England.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA point out that, whatever the African confederation may recommend at its forthcoming meeting, only FIFA Congress in Barcelona in the summer has the power to readmit South Africa to international football.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

ACTION: Egypt's latest African Nations warm-up brings a 0-0 draw against Norway in Cairo.

ENGLAND: Don Howe, former England aide, is appointed manager of Coventry in succession to former international Terry Butcher.

ITALY: Inter say they have no intention of releasing German World Cup skipper Lothar Matthaus after he publicly expresses dissatisfaction at what he claims has been the club's failure to stand up for him at a difficult time in his life both on and off the pitch. Matthaus says: "It's not that I want to go. But I have had offers. If Inter don't want me they should say so."

NIGERIA: Nigeria win the support of FIFA in their attempt to gain the release of Swansea's Ruben Agboola for the African championship finals in Senegal.

SWITZERLAND: St Gallen further extend their role as a nursery for Italian clubs. Chilean Fabian Estay signs from Universidad Catolica on loan from Lazio, while Brazilian Djair Kaye de Brito signs on behalf of an Italian investment group. Both will stay with St Gallen until 1995.

UNITED STATES: USSF president Alan Rothenberg dismisses speculation about FIFA switching the 1994 World Cup finals to Argentina. He says: "I first heard this rumour about a year ago. It's just the same one with a new twist." FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni says: "Utter rubbish, not worthy of comment."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie signals an impending reconstruction involving the departure to Italy of Jean-Pierre Papin. Tapie says Trevor Steven and Chris Waddle may be sold back to England, though Waddle makes it clear that he would happily stay in France with another club.

GERMANY: After the illegal betting scandal, another hornet's nest opens up with admissions by Nurnberg's former treasurer Peter Karg that the club runs a special account for referees' expenses — including the provision of slap-up meals and sophisticated keep-fit apparatus in contravention of DFB rules.

SPAIN: Hugo Sanchez makes his Real Madrid comeback in a 4-0 cup win over Burgos after eight months out with knee trouble.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA issues a formal statement disavowing speculation about a World Cup switch.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

AUSTRIA: Rapid pay a club record £400,000 for Argentine forward Adrian Carlos Czornomaz from San Lorenzo de Almagro. He arrives having been built up in the media as the "South American Van Basten."

GERMANY: Dynamo Dresden appoint former West German international striker Dieter Muller as general manager until the end of the season.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Billy Bingham's contract is extended, confirming him in charge of the Northern Ireland national team until January 1994. If the Irish reached the World Cup finals his contract will be extended through the summer.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

BELGIUM: Brugge's veteran skipper Jan Ceulemans announces his retirement after a long-term knee injury fails to respond to treatment . . . Albanian international Ilir Kepa signs for RWD Molenbeek.

ENGLAND: World Cup opera "hero" Luciano Pavarotti releases a version of O Sole Mio to help raise funds towards the Football Against Multiple Sclerosis campaign.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

ACTION: Anderlecht forge ahead in Belgium with a 6-0 victory over Kortrijk. John Bosman scores twice.

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

ALBECETE . . .

a homespun team making a remarkable impression in their first-ever season in the Spanish first division.

AUSTRIA: Tirol's Argentine midfielder Nestor Gorosito says he does not want to stay when Horst Hrubesch takes over from newly-appointed national team boss Ernst Happel as coach.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

ACTION: The African championship finals open in Dakar, Senegal, with the hosts disappointingly beaten 2-1 by Nigeria. In the day's other game Cameroon beat Morocco 1-0 . . . Brazil lose 1-0 to Uruguay in an under-23 (Olympic team) friendly . . . Milan extend their lead in Italy to three points; they win 1-0 at Verona while second-placed Juventus are held 1-1 at Cagliari ... Gheorghe Hagi scores twice as Real Madrid beat Osasuna 5-2; Atletico Madrid lose 1-0 at Logrones so Barcelona, 2-1 winners over Valladolid, step up into second place. Barcelona's match is held up for several minutes early on after the expulsions of Valladolid's Colombians Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez for disputing a goal.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

ACTION: Ivory Coast beat defending title-holders Algeria 3-0 and Zambia surprisingly defeat Egypt 1-0 in the African Nations' Cup.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Slavia Prague buy Soviet international Vladimir Tatarchuk from CSKA Moscow. Manager Vaclav Jezek says: "After Dragisa Binic, from Red Star, we didn't intend buying any more players. But I convinced Boris Korbel, our sponsor, that Tatarchuk was too good to miss."

DENMARK: UEFA Cup hopefuls B1903 sign former national team keeper Ole Kjaer, now 37, as cover for the quarter-final against Torino. No 1 keeper Palle Petersen is suspended after being sent off against Trabzonspor. Usual reserve Thomas Risom will play against Torino.

ITALY: Five hooligans are handed suspended prison sentences of 18 and 20 months after trouble following Sunday's match in Verona when local supporters attacked a crowd of 1,000 Milan fans being escorted back to the railway station by police. The Italian press described the incidents as "two hours of warfare." In further trouble elsewhere, police reported six arrests after trouble which left more than 20 officers injured at a third division game between Andria and visiting Catania . . . veteran coach Vujadin Boskov says he will leave Sampdoria at the end of the season unless they win the Champions' Cup . . . second division Lecce sack ex-Napoli boss Albertino Bigon after the 1-0 defeat by Reggiana, Lecce's third successive loss.

SPAIN: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff agrees to manage Holland's national team at the 1994 World Cup finals — assuming they qualify. Dick Advocaat, currently No 2 to Rinus Michels, will take charge for the qualifiers.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA and UEFA jointly agree to recognise the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as interim successor within the world and European game to the Soviet Union. FIFA and UEFA say that any player from the former republics of the Soviet Union is eligible to play for the CIS. However the composure of the CIS in soccer terms is uncertain; Armenia and Moldavia refuse to join and Ukraine reserves its position.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

ACTION: Nigeria beat Kenya 2-1 and Morocco draw 1-1 with Zaire in the African Nations' Cup.

ALBANIA: Federation officials report most top clubs have lost their entire first teams as scores of players sign up with sides in Turkey, Greece and Romania. National manager Bejkush Birce says the AFA has protested to UEFA that foreign clubs are refusing to pay transfer fees. Federation secretary Fatmir Frasheri says UEFA have been approached for compensation following the December cancellation of the European qualifier against Spain. Cancelling, he says, cost the Albanians £150,000 — a fortune for their game.

ENGLAND: FA Cup-holders Tottenham fall 1-0 at home to Aston Villa in a third round replay . . . former Sweden captain Glenn Hysen is given a free transfer by Liverpool . . . Norway forward Frank Strandli from Start Kristiansand starts a trial with Leeds.

UNITED STATES: The official unnamed mascot of the 1994 World Cup is unveiled in simultaneous press conferences in New York, London and Toronto . . . the USSF announces that Italy, the Irish Republic and Portugal will compete with the US in a four-team tournament in June spread around Washington, New Haven, Chicago and Foxboro, Massachusetts.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

ACTION: Congo and Ivory Coast draw 0-0 while Ghana beat Zambia 1-0 in the African Nations' Cup . . . Portugal and Spain draw 0-0 in a friendly in Torres Novas . . . Brazil lose 3-0 to Paraguay in an under-23 (Olympic team) friendly.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht's Marc Degryse is voted Footballer of the Year. Mechelen's Philippe Albert is runner-up.

ENGLAND: Manchester United win 1-0 away to Leeds in the FA Cup, a week after knocking them out of the Rumbelows League Cup.

FRANCE: Marseille are fined £5,000 by the French federation for concealing a start-of-the-season transfer agreement with Hajduk Split for winger Alen Boksic. The federation refer the case to FIFA out of concern at Marseille's transfer practices. Boksic's loan registration with Cannes, for whom he made his debut last month against Lyon, is cancelled.

HOLLAND: Utrecht buy Dutch striker Wim Van der Ark from Aberdeen.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit warns that he and fellow Dutchmen Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten could quit Milan if the club management persists in their transfer pursuit of Yugoslavia's Dejan Savicevic, Zvonimir Boban and Darko Pancev.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

ACTION: Senegal beat Kenya 3-0 to reach the quarter-finals of "their" African Nations' Cup. In other matches Cameroon and Zaire draw 1-1 and thus both secure places in the last eight (a two-goal defeat for Zaire would have sent Morocco through instead).

GERMANY: Nurnberg appoint a new treasurer, Horst Pittroff, to replace Ingo Bobel after controversy over "treatment" of referees. Simultaneously referees demand a pay rise.

SWEDEN: The draw is made in Gothenburg for the finals of the European championship. The groups are: Group 1 — Sweden, France, England, Yugoslavia; Group 2 — Holland, Germany, Scotland, CIS. At peripheral meetings UEFA decides to recommend expansion of the finals to 16 teams from 1996 and announce hosting bids from England, Holland, Greece, Austria and Portugal. UEFA gives the CIS and Yugoslavia until April 1 to confirm their participation in this year's finals.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

ACTION: South Korea draw 1-1 with Kuwait in the Olympic Asian qualifying tournament.

ALGERIA: Abdelhamid Kermali quits as national team coach after the loss of their African Nations' crown in Senegal.

FRANCE: Monaco restart their season with a victory which keeps the pressure on leaders Marseille. Monaco win 2-1 at Lille with goals from Rui Barros and Weah.

SPAIN: Real Madrid concede two goals in the last three minutes and concede their second defeat of the season, this time by 2-1 at Valencia. Madrid finish with ten men after the expulsion of skipper Chendo . . . Valladolid sell unsettled and unpaid Colombia midfielder Carlos Valderrama home to Independiente of Medellin for £300,000.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

ACTION: Nigeria beat Zaire 1-0 (below) while Cameroon beat hosts Senegal by the same margin in the quarter-finals of the African Nations' Cup . . . China beat Japan 2-1 in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur . . . Brazil lose 1-0 to Argentina in an under-23 (Olympic team) friendly in Teresina. Flores scores the goal which prompts speculation about the imminent dismissal of Brazil Olympic boss Ernesto Paulo . . . Belgian champions Anderlecht are surprisingly beaten 2-0 at home by Genk but stay one point clear of Mechelen . . . Marseille win 2-1 at Nimes to regain a four-point lead in France . . . AEK win 2-0 away to Apollon to take over sole leadership in Greece. Olympiakos have Soviet forward Oleg Protasov sent off in a 0-0 home draw against promoted Korinthos . . . PSV Eindhoven stay top in Holland despite losing their first league match of the season by 1-0 to deadly rivals and pursuers Ajax. Frank Bergkamp scores the decisive goal . . . Marco Van Basten scores a hat-trick as Milan beat Foggia 3-1. But Inter coach Corrado Orrico quits after the 1-0 defeat by Atalanta. David Platt scores both goals as Bari beat Roma 2-1 . . . Porto go three points clear in Portugal. Despite the 20th-minute expulsion of defender Fernando Couto they win 2-0 away to Sporting while Benfica go down 1-0 to Boavista . . . Barcelona push to within three points of Real Madrid thanks to a lively 4-3 Catalan derby defeat of Espanol.

ISRAEL: Josef Hickersberger, 1990 World Cup manager of Austria, considers an offer to take over the Israeli national team.

POLAND: Andrzej Juskowiak of Lech Poznan is voted Footballer of the Year.

ROMANIA: Former international striker Victor Piturca is appointed new coach of Steaua Bucharest. He succeeds Emerich Jenei, who has left to take over the Hungarian national team.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

ACTION: Egypt and Algeria are both shock eliminations in the African Nations' Cup. Egypt lose their last group match 1-0 to Ghana while defending champions Algeria finish bottom of Group C after managing only a 1-1 draw against Congo.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

ACTION: Ivory Coast beat Zambia 1-0 to reach the semi-finals of the African Nations' Cup along with Ghana, who beat Congo 2-1.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he may play again after his suspension expires in April.

FRANCE: Retired Nimes striker Eric Cantona is the subject of a £500,000 offer from Sheffield Wednesday.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

ARISTIDE GUARNERI . . .

stopper with Inter's World and European Cup-winning sides of the mid-1960s, recalled from obscurity to help the club's newly-appointed caretaker boss Luis Suarez.

ITALY: Inter appoint former star and former boss Luis Suarez as successor to Corrado Orrico . . . bottom club Ascoli sack Giancarlo De Sisti after fans protests.

SOUTH AFRICA: Solomon Morewa, secretary-general of the SAFA, says South Africa have been invited to enter the next African Nations' Cup, the qualifying rounds of which will start in August.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

ENGLAND: Sheffield Wednesday manager Trevor Francis says that Eric Cantona, whatever his past sins, will start a loan period "with a clean sheet."

SENEGAL: Agents in Dakar for the African Nations' Cup announce that Zambia's Derby Makinka is to join Montpellier while Nigeria striker Rashid Yekini is to join Sochaux from Portugal's Vitoria Setubal.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

ACTION: Brazil beat the US in an under-23 friendly ahead of the teams' respective Olympic qualifiers . . . Kuwait and Japan do each other no favours in the Asian Olympic qualifiers when they draw 1-1 in the tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Setubal easily by 4-1 in a fifth round cup-tie. But Porto have to replay after drawing 2-2 after extra time away to little Louletano.

SPAIN: Barcelona are surprise victims in the third round of the cup. They beat Valencia 4-2 in their second leg in Nou Camp to square the aggregate at 4-4. Away goals do not count so Valencia win 5-4 on penalties. Holders Atletico Madrid beat Oviedo 5-0 (5-1 on aggregate) and Real Madrid lose 2-1 away to Burgos but still win 5-2 overall. Toni Polster scores four as Logrones beat Castellon 6-1.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

ACTION: In the semi-finals of the African Nations' Cup Ghana beat Nigeria 2-1 but lose Pele for the Final because of a second yellow card, and Ivory Coast beat Cameroon 3-1 on penalties after a goalless draw after extra time.

CUBA: Cuba pulls out of the World Cup qualifiers because of the local federation's financial problems.

DENMARK: Morten Olsen signs a new three-year contract to stay on as coach to Brondby. Olsen had been the subject of interest from clubs in Germany, Belgium and Holland.

GERMANY: Torsten Gutschow, top scorer and Footballer of the Year last year in the old East German championship, admits he had blackmailed by the Stasi (secret police) to spy

CONTINUED OVER

DIARY CONTINUED

on Dynamo Dresden team-mates including outstanding midfielder Matthias Sammer.

SPAIN: Espanol appoint Javier Clemente as new coach in place of caretaker Jaime Sabate. Ljubomir Petrovic was dismissed in November.

UNITED STATES: The US winners of the Women's World Cup are formally welcomed home and congratulated by President Bush at a White House reception in Washington. He and team captain April Heinrichs head a football between them on the White House lawn. Bush says he played centre forward for his college soccer team. He tells the World Cup women: "You exemplified a favourite American pastime — it's known as winning."

YUGOSLAVIA: Macedonia announces it is to boycott Yugoslav sports selections as part of the republic's progress towards independence. In the initial confusion it is not clear whether Red Star's Darko Pancev and Ilija Najdoski will quit the national team before the European championship finals.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

ACTION: In the Asia Olympic qualifiers, Qatar beat South Korea 1-0 to go three points clear at the top of the table.

ENGLAND: BBC and ITV announce plans to share European championship coverage — at least in the first round . . . Sheffield Wednesday say they now expect France striker Eric Cantona to start a week's trial on Monday.

FRANCE: Caen beat La Havre 1-0.

PORTUGAL: Benfica coach Sven-Goran Eriksson is reported from Italy to have signed an agreement to take over Sampdoria at the season's end. Eriksson worked previously in Italy with Roma and Fiorentina. Current Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov, who had been expected to leave at term's end, has been in talks with Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

SENEGAL: The African confederation rejects an appeal by Ghana to have Pele's (above) yellow card (administered in the semi-final against Nigeria) quashed. This means he will miss the Final against Ivory Coast.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

ACTION: Nigeria beat Cameroon 2-1 in the African Third Place Play-off . . . Australia and Sweden draw 0-0 in Sydney . . . the US lose 1-0 in Miami to the CIS, playing their first international since the change of name . . . in the Asian Olympic qualifiers, China beat Kuwait 1-0 and Japan thrash Bahrain 6-1 . . . French league leaders Marseille lose 1-0 at home to Toulon, who thus compete a remarkable double . . . AEK beat PAOK 3-1 in the only Greek league match of the day . . . Benfica beat Gil Vicente 5-0 to celebrate the unveiling of a statue at the Stadio do Benfica of Eusebio, marking his 50th birthday . . . Barcelona win 2-0 at Bilbao to move, temporarily at least, to within one point of Spanish league leaders Real Madrid.

CIS: International Olympic Committee president Juan Samaranch, a significant straw in the sports politics wind, says that the IOC will recognise all 12 CIS member republics from March, though they will compete under a united format at the Barcelona Games.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

ACTION: Ivory Coast win the African Nations' Cup for the first time, beating Ghana 11-10 on penalties after a goalless draw in the Final in Dakar, Senegal . . . Anderlecht beat Eendracht Aalst 4-0 to go three points clear in the Belgian first division . . . Vasco da Gama beat Corinthians 4-1 on the opening day of the new Brazilian national championship . . . Marangos, Saravakos and Warzycha score the vital goals as Panathinaikos beat old rivals Olympiakos 3-0 . . . Milan, depsite the absence of Van Basten and a missed penalty by Baresi, beat bottom club Ascoli 4-1 to go five points clear of Juventus, who lose a nerve-tingling match 2-0 to Fiorentina . . . Romanian midfielder Timofte scores twice as Porto beat Estoril 5-0 to stay three points clear of Benfica in Portugal . . . Real Madrid struggle to beat Tenerife 2-1 after goalkeeper Buyo is sent off in the 84th minute for time-wasting.

GERMANY: Hans Hansen, president of the German sports federation, appeals for all ex-east German players and officials to admit whether they had spied for the notorious secret police, the Stasi.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven announce, after their 2-1 win over Den Haag, that coach Bobby Robson's contract will not be renewed at the end of the season.

INDIA: Hooligan trouble in the port of Chittagong when 50 people are injured after scuffles between around 1,000 fans at a match between old rivals Abahani Club and Mohemmadan Blues.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

ACTION: In the Asian Olympic qualifiers, South Korea beat Japan 1-0 and China go top by beating Bahrain 3-0.

EGYPT: Mahmoud El-Gohari, coach to Egypt at the 1990 World Cup and in the recent African Nations' failure, tells a government sports ministry inquiry he is quitting as national boss.

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona starts a one-week trial with Sheffield Wednesday.

IVORY COAST: The government declares a two-day holiday to celebrate the national team's African Nations' triumph.

ITALY: Andrea Carnevale and Angelo Peruzzi (now Juventus), the Roma players suspended for a year after drug test failures in the autumn of 1990, learn they must stand trial on drugs charges. After the dope test incidents, quantities of amphetamines were founded at Roma's training camp . . . Lazio's Thomas Doll denies he worked as a spy for the Stasi while he played for Dynamo Berlin in the old East Germany.

SENEGAL: Claude Le Roy is sacked as national manager after the quarter-final failure by the African Nations' hosts.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

ACTION: Kuwait beat Qatar 3-0 in the Asian Olympic qualifiers.

EGYPT: The federation rules that Mahmoud El-Gohari cannot quit as national boss because no-one has the knowledge or experience to take over the Olympic squad, preparing for Barcelona, at such short notice.

FRANCE: Auxerre's Hungarian striker Kalman Kovacs goes to Leeds for a one-week trial.

GERMANY: The DFB rule that Soren Lerby, lacking the necessary coaching qualifications, cannot continue to train Bayern Munich after the end of the season . . . Wolfgang Klein, club doctor at Dynamo Dresden, says that East German football was riddled with Stasi spies.

ITALY: Bari's England midfielder, David Platt, denies rumours that he will move to Juventus at the season's end.

SPAIN: Real Madrid, top of the table and in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup, sensationally sack Radomir Antic as coach and appoint Leo Beenhakker — who has been waiting in the wings for three months as technical director.

SWEDEN: Security officials propose municipal alcohol bans in European championship finals stadia on match days to minimise the risk of hooliganism. The warning to foreign fans is reiterated: Do not travel without a match ticket.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

ACTION: Australia beat Sweden 1-0 in Adelaide in the second of their three "tests" . . . El Salvador lose 3-0 at home to the CIS.

BELGIUM: Waregem sack coach Rene Verheyen and appoint Paul Theunis, dismissed earlier his season by Genk.

ENGLAND: After Leeds it is now Sheffield Wednesday who open negotiations with Bari's transfer-listed Australia striker Frank Farina.

FRANCE: Saint-Etienne draw 1-1 with Marseille in the game the federation had ordered be replayed after the controversial match earlier in the season when Jean-Pierre Papin was felled by a bottle thrown at Marseille players before the game.

GERMANY: Former East German internationals Andreas Trautmann, Matthas Doschner and Frank Lieberam admit they, too, spied for the Stasi on their team-mates at Dresden and the national team. Liederam says: "I had to keep a special eye on Gutschow and Sammer." Dresden general manager Dieter Muller confirms other reports that former club internationals Frank Ganzera (now working in insurance) and Gert Heidler (Dresden youth coach) had also been Stasi spies . . . Bayern Munich draw 1-1 in a friendly with Leeds at Elland Road. Raimond Aumann, fit again, plays in goal.

ITALY: Inter beat Cremonese 1-0 with a last-minute goal by Klinsmann. The original league match was abandoned on January 5 because of fog.

PORTUGAL: Porto beat Benfica 1-0 in the domestic Supercup second leg. That makes the aggregate 2-2 and means a play-off.

ROMANIA: Champions Craiova dismiss president Marcel Popescu and vice-presidents Petre Deselnicu and Ion Nitulescu because of poor management and internal liaison. Their departure appears linked with the sale to PSV Eindhoven of sweeper Gica Popescu 18 months ago for £1million.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

DENMARK: Allan Simonsen's Vejle release Croatian trialists Vlado and Papic to sign up Ghana internationals Herve Tchinda and Georges Mouyeme.

GERMANY: Dresden coaching aides Wolfgang Klein and Horst Friedl are dismissed after admitting they, too, were Stasi spies. The personal adviser of Thomas Doll (now Lazio) issues a statement in which Doll denies having had any links with the Stasi and threatens to sue anyone who says he did.

ITALY: Sports Minister Carlo Tognoli steps into the growing controversy over whether Calcio should allow four imports per team. Tognoli proposes three imports permitted to play at any one time with one available in reserve — "possibly from an Economic Community country." . . . Luis Vinicio, 60, former Brazilian centre-forward favourite with Inter, Vicenza and Bologna, comes out of managerial retirement to take over fourth division Juve Stabia.

SPAIN: Former Luton Town player Radomir Antic agrees to stay at Real Madrid until the end of the season — in the post previously held by Leo Beenhakker, of general manager . . . Palma de Mallorca buy Vlada Stosic from Red Star Belgrade and sell Uruguayan striker Peter Mendez to Millonarios of Colombia . . . Las Palmas take advantage of the absence of veteran coach Roque Olsen (consulting a back specialist) to replace him with nursery team coach German Devora.

URUGUAY: Nacional beat old rivals Penarol 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the domestic play-off for a place in the 1992 South American club cup. Nacional will join Defensor in the event.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

ACTION: The South American Olympic Games qualifying tournament opens in Asuncion, Paraguay, with a 1-0 victory for the hosts against Venezuela, the weakest team in the event.

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona (above) walks out on Sheffield Wednesday because manager Trevor Francis asks him to prolong his trial for an extra week. Cantona has been training on an artificial surface indoors because of poor weather; Francis wanted to check him in action outdoors on grass.

HUNGARY: Kispest-Honved agree to give a trial to former Real Madrid forward Joaquin Parra.

ITALY: Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni joins the debate over the conditions for allowing a fourth foreign player per club. Trapattoni says: "If clubs can sign him then he should be free to play. I'm against the idea of having only three available to play at any one time." . . . a journalist is beaten up after angry Genoa fans sneak into the training grounds and interrupt a press conference with coach Bagnoli.

PORTUGAL: Federation boss Vieira de Carvalho says he believes Portugal have FIFA and Latin European nations "on our side" in the bid to host the 1996 European championship finals.

TRANSFER LIST

BERNARDO	M	Bayern Munich	Santos
ERIC CANTONA	F	Nimes	Leeds (loan)
MARTIN DAHLIN	S	Malmo	Borussia Mg
RAINER ERNST	S	Kaiserslautern	Bordeaux
PETER MENDEZ	S	Palma	Millonarios
JONNY MOLBY	M	Vejle	Nantes
ALEX MOSTOVOI	M	Moscow Spartak	Benfica
NORBERT NACHTWEIH	D	Eintracht Frankfurt	Waldhoff Mannheim
KENT NIELSEN	D	Aston Villa	Aarhus
ALOIS REINHARDT	D	Leverkusen	Bayern Munich
KNUT REINHARDT	M	Leverkusen	Borussia Dortmund
RENATO	F	Gremio	Botafogo
STOSIC	M	Red Star	Palma
MARIO TRASANTE	D	Penarol	Independiente

SOCCER ON TV

SKY SPORTS

SUNDAY 1 MARCH
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of a match from the Serie A.
21.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

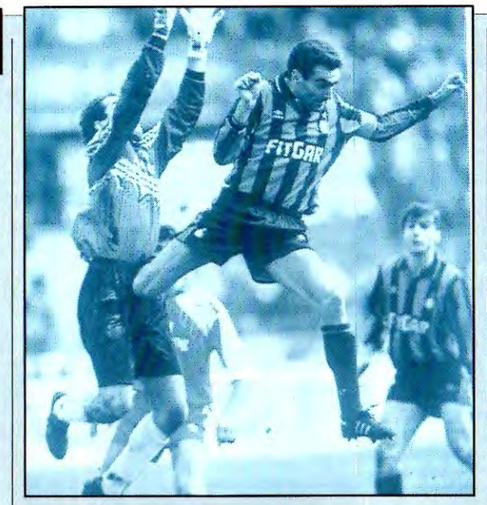
MONDAY 2 MARCH
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL
08.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
11.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: See 07.00.
12.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: See 09.00.
18.30 NETBUSTERS: Goals from England, Scotland and Europe.
23.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 3 MARCH
12.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE MAGAZINE
17.30 NETBUSTERS: Goal after goal from around the globe!
19.00 SCOTTISH CUP — LIVE: The pick of the fifth round.
21.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
23.30 SCOTTISH CUP: See 19.00.
01.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW: See 21.30.

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH
12.30 SCOTTISH CUP: Last night's game.
14.30 THE FOOTBALLERS FOOTBALL SHOW

THURSDAY 5 MARCH
13.30 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP: Highlights of the week.

FRIDAY 6 MARCH
19.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Full coverage of a Bundesliga match.



22.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Evening update.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH
09.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
17.30 FA CUP SIXTH ROUND SPECIAL: A round-up of the week's cup action.

SUNDAY 8 MARCH
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of a game from the Serie A.
22.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games in the Premier League.

MONDAY 9 MARCH
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
14.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL WEEKEND
20.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of a Bundesliga match.
22.00 NETBUSTERS

SATURDAY 14 MARCH
07.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
10.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 15 MARCH
12.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL — LIVE: Celtic v Aberdeen
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: The best of the day's games.
20.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games.

MONDAY 16 MARCH
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL
23.20 ITALIAN LEAGUE MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 17 MARCH
08.00 ITALIAN MAGAZINE
12.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL
18.00 ITALIAN MAGAZINE
19.00 LIVE CUP REPLAY: TBA.

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH
12.30 SCOTTISH CUP REPLAY
19.30 NETBUSTERS

THURSDAY 19 MARCH
07.00 SCOTTISH CUP: Reply.
17.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE MAGAZINE
19.30 FA CUP — LIVE: A quarter-final tie.

TUESDAY 10 MARCH
09.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE MAGAZINE
12.00 FA CUP: Highlights from last night's tie.
21.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH
14.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

THURSDAY 12 MARCH
14.30 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 13 MARCH
09.00 NETBUSTERS
19.00 SKY SOCCER
08.30 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 20 MARCH
12.30 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP
18.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
19.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL — LIVE: Hibs v Hearts

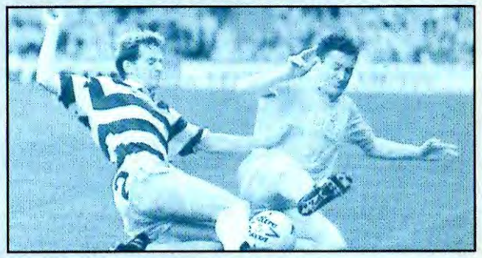
SATURDAY 21 MARCH
07.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Hibernian v Hearts

SUNDAY 22 MARCH
12.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL — LIVE: Rangers v Celtic.
20.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Highlights from three games.

MONDAY 23 MARCH
09.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE
18.00 NETBUSTERS

TUESDAY 24 MARCH
12.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL
20.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
24.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH
17.00 NETBUSTERS
17.30 LIVE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: Czechoslovakia v England and Scotland v Finland.



SCREENSPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 2
10.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
00.00 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA: Play off: Colombia v Ecuador

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
10.00 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Play off: Colombia v Ecuador
00.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY MARCH 5
15.30 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Play off: Colombia v Ecuador
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Oviedo v Barcelona, R. Madrid v Sporting

FRIDAY MARCH 6
16.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY MARCH 7
08.00 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Play off: Colombia v Ecuador
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY MARCH 9
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY MARCH 10
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
00.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY MARCH 12
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Barcelona v R. Madrid & At. Madrid v Oviedo

FRIDAY MARCH 13
16.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY MARCH 14
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY MARCH 16
10.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY MARCH 17
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18
15.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY MARCH 19
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: At.Madrid v Barcelona, Logrones v R. Madrid

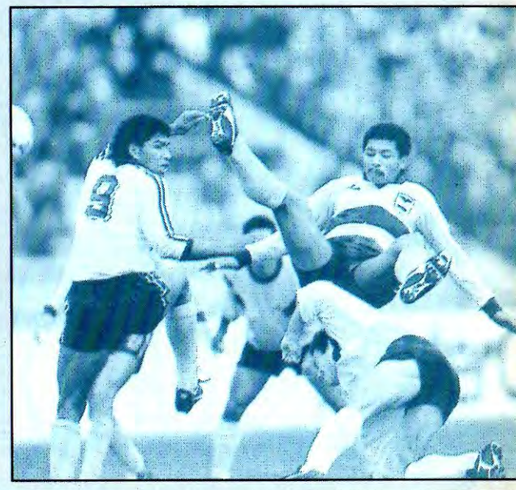
FRIDAY MARCH 20
16.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY MARCH 21
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY MARCH 23
10.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY MARCH 24
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL



Asia

THE UNLIKELY EL DORADO

BY PAUL **MOON**

JAPAN is now being viewed as the latest soccer El Dorado, like Colombia and North America in previous times. Yet only a decade ago Japan had one of the world's most resolutely amateur domestic structures.

Although the Japanese had played a primitive mode of football, called Kemari, in 600 BC and a derivative of it up to 2,000 years later, they took only a lukewarm interest in the modern game after it had been introduced to their country by an English schoolteacher named Johns in 1874.

Impact

Soccer made little impact upon sumo wrestling's traditional popularity or, later, the sport the Japanese now follow with equal passion — baseball.

Even so, there were still sufficient devotees, nearly all university students and graduates, to start a national administrative body in 1921.

In the same year, England's Football Association presented them with a trophy which was contested by local teams. The "English" Cup was Japan's one nationwide competition until the end of World War Two. It was later replaced by the Emperor's Cup, still the nation's premier knockout tournament.

The Japanese representative side, selected by the equivalent of a national Olympic committee, made their debut at the 1917 Far East Games. That initial exposure could hardly have been worse, China beating them 8-0 and the Philippines winning 15-2.

The Games, an Olympic-style festival featuring several sports and staged on seven other occasions before being abandoned in 1934, provided Japan with their only international experience for almost two decades. China won gold medals each time and Japan had the worst overall record.

In 1936, helped by one player from occupied Korea, Japan travelled to the Olympics in Berlin and caused a sensation when defeating Sweden 3-2. Eventual winners Italy then hammered them 8-0 in the quarter-finals, but a taste for the tournament which was to bring glory had been developed.

A 3-2 victory over Argentina in 1964 thrilled the Tokyo crowd, and performances at the next Olympiad put Japan in the international limelight for the first time.

The Japanese, astutely coached by the diminutive German Dettmar Cramer and spearheaded by explosive striker Kunishige Kamamoto (who finished as leading scorer), won the hearts of millions in Mexico.

Victories over Nigeria and France and draws with Spain and Brazil took them into the semi-finals, where they lost 5-0 to Hungary.

A few days later, the 112,000 crammed into the Aztec Stadium were confident the Japanese would be mere fodder for Mexico in the third-place play-off.

But the underdogs produced an exhilarating display to win 2-0 amid a hail of cushions flung at the home team. Only in 1966, when North Korea stunned the soccer world, has Asian soccer enjoyed a prouder moment.

The exploits of this all-amateur team reinforced the Corinthian attitudes which then prevailed within the Football Association of Japan. But Japan's mediocrity at all levels in subsequent years, and the Olympic tournament's format changes in that time, brought about a gradual change.

Interest

The move towards professionalism has been ponderous. Only in 1986 did the Japan Soccer League accept semi-professionalism.

The JSL, formed in 1965 as a result of the interest generated by the Tokyo Olympics, has been dominated by the social and recreational clubs of major industrial concerns.

The roll of honour includes such names as Mitsubishi, Hitachi and Nissan.

Although the corporations can be credited with taking the game well beyond the university campuses, their role in the ethics of modern Japanese society has hampered soccer to a degree.

These ethics demand that young Japanese must play recreational sport alongside work colleagues, irrespective of how good or bad they are.

So the talents of numerous players of promise have been blunted by the necessity to appear in a poor team. Many footballers of potential have had to terminate their careers when joining business concerns which did not cater for soccer.

Hopefully, this situation will be changed, at least to a degree, by the introduction of full-time professionalism — led by the Yomiuri club.

Although Yomiuri FC are owned by the gigantic Shimbun media group, they are run as a separate organisation.

The Yomiuri Giants baseball team were a sporting institution when the soccer club came into being in 1969. From the outset, Yomiuri campaigned for professionalism and bent all FAJ's laws forbidding it. They imported several professional coaches and players — mainly Brazilian but including Scot Steve Patterson — who were given "jobs" in the Shimbun organisation.

By the mid-1980s Yomiuri were established as Japan's top club. Heeding the old adage about joining 'em if you can't beat 'em, the other JSL clubs voted for the introduction of semi-professionalism in 1986.

Since then, the JSL's quality has been enhanced by the recruitment of several accomplished — though not top — Brazilian players.

Yet attendance figures have only improved slightly and Japan's national team results continue to disappoint. This was the major factor in the decision to go for full-time professionalism.

Japan have never qualified for the World Cup finals, not reached an Olympics final since the epic 1968 campaign, and failed to win any continent-wide competition.

Occasionally they show promise, most recently when beating Vasco Da Gama and Tottenham Hotspur to win last year's Kirin Cup. This has been held annually since 1978, and pits the Japanese national selection against powerful European and South American clubs.

The tournament has drawn excellent crowds, as have all the yearly Toyota Cup clashes and most other important international events staged in Japan — notably the 1979 World Youth Championships and 1964 Olympics.

Japan's soccer followers have demonstrated that they will be drawn by quality.

So players of calibre are essential for the professional league's financial viability.

None of the ten clubs will be formally attached to business organisations, other than in normal club-sponsor relationships. As a consequence, Japanese soccer should gain regional support and largely rid itself of the previously related problem created by young players having to adopt company loyalties as soon as they leave college.

Ultimately, the league's success will be determined by its ability in nurturing sufficient talent to make the Japanese national team competitive at the highest level.

Japan has produced a few exceptional players: Kamamotor in the 60s, Yasuhiko Okudera, a fine midfielder with Hertha Berlin, Cologne and Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga, and elegant winger Kazushi Kimura, who featured prominently in all Asian Footballer of the Year polls during the mid 80s.

Improving

By honing their skill alongside European and South American stars, promising young Japanese players, in theory at least, will have a much greater chance of improving their talents and fulfilling their potential.

As they have shown in so many fields, they can be determined competitors.

Japanese failure to match the Americans in baseball suggests that success will not come easily.

Despite this, the large population hunger for perfection and financial resources suggest that Japan represents Asia's best prospect of becoming a major world soccer power within the next two decades.

GRAMPUS TO START IN EUROPE

BY MIKE **PLASTOW**

NAGOYA Grampus Eight, the team hoping to have Gary Lineker in their ranks, will play their first matches in June — not in Japan, but in Europe.

They are going to a training camp in Sweden, where the players will be able to watch Lineker in the European Championship, and are arranging games in France, Germany and Italy.

The manager, Ryuzo Hiraki, says: "We may play up to ten games in two weeks, but we expect to take a large squad of young players, and can even manage two matches in one day."

Clubs entering the new professional league in Japan are likely to be allowed to field three foreign-born players in competitive matches.

Grampus Eight are not solely owned by Toyota, as some people claim. Toyota have 25 per cent, and other shareholders include Chubu Electric and Tokai Railway.

The Lineker story has had little coverage in Japan, because the media is largely in the hands of the older generation who think that sport means baseball.

This is in spite of the fact that soccer is now played by more people than any other game.

Lineker's contract includes an advertising campaign endorsing Toyota products. So perhaps the media will start taking notice in due course.

FA'S own goal penalises Yomiuri

THE Japan Football Association scored a clumsy own-goal in a bid to raise the profile of Japanese soccer, by forcing Yomiuri to withdraw from the Asian Champions' Cup.

Yomiuri had just won 3-1 in the second-round, second-leg match against South China of Hong Kong, reversing a 1-0 deficit from the first leg and qualifying for the finals in Qatar.

The problem for the JFA was that the Qatar tournament clashed with the Emperor's Cup in Japan. This is the showpiece of the Japanese season, and the JFA reasoned that Yomiuri were needed to attract the fans.

Japanese ambivalence to Asian competitions is well established. Japan has competed in only six out of ten previous Champions' Cups and did not enter the first Asian Cup-winners' Cup last term.

Nissan are competing this time, but only as stand-ins for the real Cup winners, Matsushita, who withdrew on the pretext of injury.

Interpret

Besides, both Yomiuri and Nissan's Asian games were scheduled for tiny, out-of-the-way stadiums.

A crowd of 25,956 watched the first leg in Hong Kong, but fewer than 2,000 saw the return. (The official figure was 3,000, but the stadium was not full and has a seating capacity of only 2,104).

Other Asian countries are certain to interpret this as further evidence of Japanese parochialism and arrogance.

Is Japan truly ready to host any kind of major international tournament?

PUPUK KALTIM HEAD FOR THE TOP

BY MIKE **PLASTOW**

PUPUK KALTIM of Indonesia were founded in 1988 and have already achieved an impressive track record.

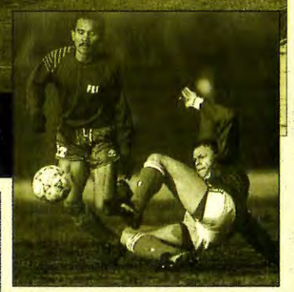
Last year they were runners-up in the Galatama, Indonesia's national semi-professional soccer league, and they are making a determined bid for this season's championship.

With only a few games to go the title was a three-horse race between Pupuk Kaltim and two Javanese sides: the reigning champions, Pelita Jaya, and Arseto. Pupuk Kaltim also reached the semi-final of the Asian Cup-winners' Cup, losing narrowly to Nissan of Japan.

Pupuk Kaltim are an offshoot of Pupuk Kalimantan Timur, a fertiliser company established in 1977 in the jungles of Borneo (called Kalimantan in Indonesia). The company is a big success story of the Indonesian economy, and Pupuk Kaltim FC are expanding, too.

Attendances average around the 5,000 mark and this month the club will open a new 20,000 stadium complete with floodlights, big enough to hold one third of the town's population. It also has a golf course, swimming pool and other facilities.

On the field, Pupuk Kaltim have two of the bright hopes of Indonesian soccer: striker Widodo C. Putra and central midfielder Herlansyah. Both play for the Olympic and full national teams.



Pupuk Kaltim's new 20,000 capacity stadium (above), with action from the Asian Cup-winners' Cup semi-final first leg (right) as PK's Heriansyah evades a tackle by Nissan's Everton.

The other key players are goalkeeper Salmon Kabarek and Agus Udin, currently top scorer in the Galatama with 16 goals.

Pupuk Kaltim qualified for the Asian Cup-winners' Cup as league runner-up, because Indonesia do not have a national knock-out competition.

They swept past Karachi Port Trust of Pakistan 6-0 at home and 3-0 away, then won by default in the second round, when both the Philippine and South Korean teams withdrew.

In the semi-final, against Nissan, Pupuk Kaltim lost 2-0 away in wintry Japan — weather unthinkable in Kalimantan — and were held 0-0 at home.

Stand by for pools

BY MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

FOOTBALL pools may start in Japan once the new "J" League gets going next year.

Gambling in Japan is illegal except when promoted by the Government, but plans have been put forward to allow betting on results in the new league.

Horse-racing, motorboat, motorbike and cycling events in the country are widely used for betting, which bring in huge profits for municipal authorities.

The funds would be used to promote sport in general, with the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano one leading candidate for subsidies.

The "J" League, due to start in March 1993, has been put back to mid-April to avoid clashes with World Cup qualifiers.

Group F of the Asian region, involving Japan, UAE, Bangladesh, Thailand and Sri Lanka, will be played in Japan from April 1 to April 13.

Mazda have strengthened their squad by singing the Korean who virtually ended Japan's Olympic hopes.

Student Kim Byung Sun's goal gave his country a 1-0 win over Japan in the vital qualifying game, in Kuala Lumpur.

Mazda manager Kazuo Imanishi was there, and clearly liked what he saw.

Mazda showed better form when matches restarted after the mid-season break, drawing 0-0 with Yomiuri and winning their next games 2-0 and 3-0.

Once the new League starts, Mazda will be known as Sanfreccia Hiroshima. The name means "Three Arrows" and refers to the legend of a 16th century warlord.

Galatama executive secretary Soegondho has confirmed that the ban on foreign players probably will be lifted next year. The decision is not yet final, but Soegondho says it will be one of the main topics discussed at a meeting of club owners and managers.

As reported in ***WORLD SOCCER*** in January, foreign players have been banned from Indonesia's semi-professional league since June, 1983. Before then, however, several had been active in the game.

Ten-man Amana shock the champions

THE surprise of the season in Iraq, one that will not be forgdtten for a long time, was newly-promoted Amana's 1-0 defeat of mighty Zewra, the reigning champions.

This meant that Air Force topped the 20-club table after 12 games on 21 points, with Zewra two behind.

More than 30,000 fans turned up expecting an easy win for the home club, but Amana went ahead in the tenth minute through 36-year-old Enad Abed.

Zewra had most of the play, even without skipper and top scorer Ahmed Radi, who was suspended. They hit the woodwork five times and Amana played all the second half without defender Younis Kadum, sent off for a foul, but they could not score.

Air Force drew 1-1 with Tayaran on the same day. Sabad Jaier opened the scoring, but Tayaran substitute Raheed Hameed equalised with his first touch.

Shurta, who were in third place, beat Naft 3-0 and had conceded only two goals in their 12 matches, while scoring only 16.

Sleekh, down in 17th place, had those goal figures in reverse, but had picked up seven points through a win and five draws.

Zewra . . . champions of Iraq.

SEASON ENDS WITH A STORM

BY PAUL **MOON**

HOPES that the 1991 Chinese National Championship would be competed without any major controversy, unlike the majority in recent years, were shattered on the final day.

Liaoning had clinched the title (their fifth in seven years) when they met neighbours Dalian, who had to win to avoid relegation. Rumours of what the Chinese term "a false match" were circulating widely during the week running up to the game.

Dalian duly won 5-4 and, adding to the overtones, Sun Wei notched all of the Liaoning goals — which enabled him to claim the Golden Shoe as championship leading scorer.

Allegations that Dalian's survival had been bartered for Sun's accolade were carried by several government controlled newspapers. This suggests at least some concern at official level, but the Chinese FA made no move to investigate.

Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou all finished four points behind, their placings, in that order, being determined by results against each other.

China's Olympic team (whose programme was completed early in order to aid their Barcelona aspirations) and Tianjin were relegated.

The top four emphasised their superiority when they qualified for the First Division Cup semi-finals. Shanghai took the trophy by beating Guangzhou 1-0 in the final.

PAKISTAN KEEP GAMES TITLE

BY G C **DAS**

PAKISTAN retained the South Asian Federation Games soccer title by beating the Maldives 2-0 in the final in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Six nations competed for the title, with Pakistan topping one group and Maldives the other.

In the final, extra time looked likely with the defences on top, but with seven minutes to go substitute Qazi Mohammed scored for Pakistan, and four minutes later Mohammad Nauman added a splendid second.

RESULTS

First Round groups:
Pakistan 1 v 0 Bangladesh; Pakistan 0 v 0 India; Bangladesh 2 v 1 India; Maldives 1 v 0 Nepal; Maldives 1 v 0 Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka 2 v 2 Nepal.

Third-place match:
Bangladesh 2 v 0 Nepal.

Final: Pakistan 2 v 0 Maldives.

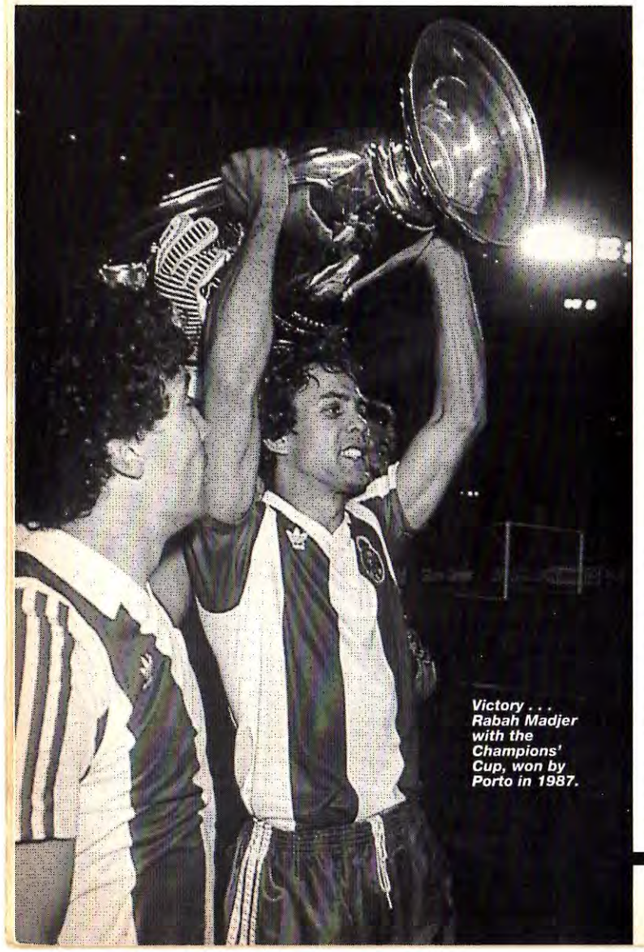
● ROMANIA won the first Rajiv Gandhi invitation tournament held in memory of the former Indian premier. But their 3-0 win over South Korea in the final was marred by a mass brawl. Two players from each side were sent off and later suspended for six months by the all-India Federation. Egypt, Iran and India were the other competing nations.

Africa

Upset . . . Lakhar Belloumi slots home Algeria's second goal in a 2-1 victory over West Germany at the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

Jay Mwamba looks at Africa's varying styles

ONE CONTINENT, DIFFERENT CONCEPTS



Victory . . . Rabah Madjer with the Champions' Cup, won by Porto in 1987.

STERLING performances in FIFA competitions at different levels in recent years mean that Africa's niche as an emergent force in world soccer is assured.

But what impression, technically, tactically or otherwise, Africa ultimately makes on the game depends largely on which part of the continent produces the most successful national side. Cameroon, Morocco and Egypt are all in the running for that distinction.

All are exponents of different football concepts and styles that define the various African approaches to the game, each with influences that can be attributed to factors as diverse as geographical region, colonial heritage, culture and economic conditions.

These influences, to an extent, also determine the type of player that is extolled in a particular region.

Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, the African pace-setters on the international scene since Tunisia recorded the continent's first World Cup win, 3-1 over Mexico in Argentina '78, represent the Maghreb school of football.

Advanced

The Maghreb region, stretching across north-western Africa on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, is arguably the most technically advanced footballing region on the continent.

One reason is its proximity to southern Europe where contacts go a long way.

The French influence, too, has played a key role in developing standards in the Maghreb way above the rest of Africa. Algeria, particularly, benefits greatly from close links with the former rulers, and there are many Algerian professionals in France.

Predictably, across the Maghreb region, the player with vision, technical sense and a touch of finesse is held above others.

Perhaps the two greatest embodiments of these qualities, midfielders Lakhdar Belloumi and Rabah Madjer, were both African Footballer of the Year award-winners, and the stars of Algeria's 2-1 upset over West Germany in the 1982 World Cup.

Belloumi later had his career put into a tailspin by a broken leg suffered in a stormy Africa Champions' Cup tie in Libya in 1984, but Madjer achieved immortal fame by producing an encore performance against another German side, Bayern Munich, in FC Porto's 1987 European Champions' Cup victory.

Merited

The merits of Maghreb football have not been matched by Egypt's uniquely home-developed game, but the Egyptians are Africa's oldest soccer ambassadors. Back in 1920 they featured in the Olympic Games in Antwerp, where they lost 2-1 to Italy.

Morocco (1970, 1986), Algeria (1982, 1986) and Tunisia (1978) had all qualified for and won matches in the World Cup finals before Egypt's first merited appearance (they had been in the 1934 finals by invitation) at Italia '90.

There an inspired 1-1 draw with an unsettled Holland was their brightest moment in a first-round campaign that paled in comparison with Cameroon's.

The general African consensus was that the Egyptians, ironically, had been defeated by their own game: guile, as in goalkeeper Ahmed Shoubier's incessant time-wasting, and a proclivity for cautious play.

In African competitions, most of which are decided by aggregate scores, this philosophy has produced a string of Egyptian winners at club and national level.

The Egyptian style has been to play ultra-defensively away and attack incessantly at home.

Such tactics provide little opportunity for individual expression, hence the Egyptian emphasis on the work ethic and rigid tactical discipline as best exemplified by their World Cup skipper, Magdi Abdel Ghani.

Across the Sahara, the West African game is torn between two football cultures — British and French.

Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali, etc., provide their quota of "Foreign Legionnaires" to French clubs, but unlike the Maghreb states, their tactical and technical benefits from this French connection have not been as pervasive.

National coaches have a major problem in blending European-domiciled stars and home-based players into a cohesive unit.

West Africa also has produced fewer continental heroes than other parts of Africa, even though stars such as Monaco's Senegalese sweeper Roger Mendy and winger Youssouf Fofana of the Ivory Coast are household names in the region.

West African nations, led by Nigeria and Ghana, have adopted the tenacity and valour that always make English teams dangerous in Europe.

Ghana's 86th-minute winner against Spain in the Under-17 World Cup Final last September is a good example.

Adopted

Another old British style that suits West Africans is the concept of the big sweeper and centre-forward, although the fleet-footed Ghanaian Abedi Pele is an exception.

The Brazilian influence goes further than Abedi's adopted name. It has had a lasting impact on football in Ghana, which is technically ahead of most other black African states (Ghana are record four-time winners of the African Nations' Cup) but over the past decade has suffered from a lack of funding and the exodus of top players to Europe and wealthier clubs in neighbouring states.

Ghanaians like their star players to show a touch of magic on the turf, as well as scoring goals, virtues that Abedi Pele and Anderlecht's Nii Lamptey amply possess.

If there was any magic formula behind Cameroon's World Cup exploits beyond luck, the surprise element and the European grooming of their players, it was their accomplishment in synthesising a novel approach to the game from two cultures.

The Cameroonians have blended the best qualities of the French, elegance and flair (as in the quarter-final against England) with some British concepts, that old fire and faith in the big lads (as in the sometimes jarring victory over Argentina in Italia '90).

Cameroon have come a long way, thanks to heavy government funding and, occasionally, direct presidential attention.

In their World Cup debut in 1982 in Spain, the "Indomitable Lions" emerged undefeated, drawing with Italy, Poland and Peru.

A "goal" against Peru, that would have seen them through to the quarter-finals at the expense of eventual champions Italy was disallowed.

Honed

The scorer Roger Milla, honed his enduring skill in the French League, as did Louis Mfede. Both are products of the Gallic side of Cameroonian football, while big forward Omam Biyik and hulking skipper Stephen Tataw are out of the British mould.

There are some African approaches to football even closer to the hard-running English game than anywhere else outside Britain.

Zambia in the south central region are a primary example, thanks to managers such as the late Brian Tiler, Bill McGarry, Jeff Butler and Danny McGrain.

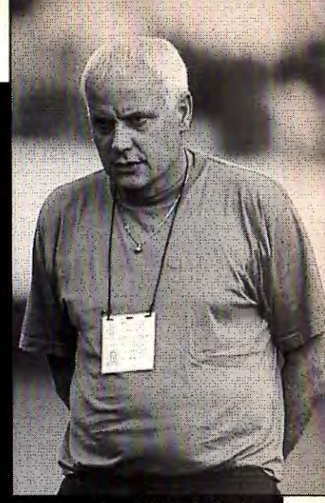
When fused with players of immense skill and vision — PSV Eindhoven's Kalusha Bwalya and Anderlecht's Charles Musonda — performances such as Zambia's 5-2 routing of Cameroon in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers and the 4-0 upset of Italy in the last Olympics are the result.

But until the Zambians and other countries on the continent develop the technical sense and consistency of the pace-setters, Cameroon and the Maghreb giants will remain Africa's standard-bearers.

Recognised . . . Youssouf Fofana is a household name in West Africa.

MONEY MEN MOVE IN ON A LOVE AFFAIR

BY TIM COLLINGS



Encouraged . . . Pfister helped German agents sign players.

THE lasting image of the 18th African Nations' Cup finals was not the joy of the Ivory Coast as they danced with delight after winning the trophy for the first time, but the hordes of agents, scouts and European managers huddling together in pursuit of the raw talent on show.

They came from everywhere in Europe but Britain. Nearly every club from the Bundesliga and Italy's Serie A was represented along with many from Spain, Portugal, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Turkey and Greece.

Stayed

Their presence, particularly at the hotel where seven of the eight quarter-finalists stayed, was unavoidable, and daily meetings between players and agents were a common sight around the table tennis tables and the swimming pool.

Business, however, was anything but brisk, though this did nothing to dismay Domenico Ricci, the 40-year-old Italian agent whose Rome-based company, African Football Management, was set up to serve the needs of Italy's major clubs.

"There is a population of more than 200 million people who are under 20 in Africa," he said. "The boys all play football. It's like it once was in Brazil. They all love the game and it's something natural.

"The African players all have wonderful skill, natural ability, athleticism and rhythm. That's how they grow up.

"They play football with anything in the streets, on the beaches, on the dirt. They play football and they dance as soon as they can walk. This makes them very different from the players in Europe.

"But the Africans are not perfect. They need professional coaching and development and it is best for them if we can provide this.

"I know the Italian clubs are now more interested than ever and that is why so many of them have come here. Juventus, for example, now have put in place a properly planned programme to invest in and develop African football.

"They want to help create an infrastructure for the coaching and in return of course they expect to be able to control the transfer market."

Juventus were represented in Senegal by former Italian international defender Claudio Gentile, whose eyes seemed more closely attracted to Abedi Pele than anyone else during what was ultimately a disappointing tournament.

But he, like Ricci, obviously recognised the potential and was more aware than anyone else of the significance of Torino's move to sign three of Ghana's Under-17 World Cup-winning team last year.

"This is only the start," said Ricci. "There will be more and more. The young players in Ghana are fantastic. But it is the same all over Africa."

One result of the massive European interest in African players — more than 300 Africans are now playing in the European leagues — has been rising prices in the transfer market and much tougher competition for the best.

German agents, said to have been encouraged by Ghana's German coach, Otto Pfister, were out in force around the Ghana squad and it was clear there was tension between them and their Italian counterparts.

Belgian agent Willy Pluym, who has concentrated most of his work on Zambian players, admitted: "It is much more difficult here than it was a few years ago. It was much easier to come to Africa for players before than it is now. They all want better deals now."

Improved

Even though the deals have improved, providing relatively rich rewards for the Africans, it is still a cheap market for the Europeans looking for raw, talented and naturally athletic footballers.

The deal Ricci put together for Torino when they signed the three young Ghanaians — one, Mohamed Gargo, made some impact on the early stages of the tournament — was typical.

"When we went to sign Gargo, Bayer Leverkusen were also trying to buy him," said Ricci. "They went up to 200,000 dollars for the club and 70,000 for the family. But we topped that by offering 300,000 and 80,000.

"That was enough for his family to buy a two-floor house and a car and still have plenty to spare.

"In the end, we spent 1.5 million dollars to take them to Torino for four years. But this will show a big profit in the end."

Papin (left) . . . he says he might still go to Spain.

Otokore . . . he wants to leave.

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Europe

Clubs losing their transfer clout

SHALL we see Eric Cantona lining up, after all, alongside Jean-Pierre Papin in Sweden next June?

And where will Papin go after that? For that matter, where will Marseille team-mate Pele, whose absence from the African Nations' Cup Final coincided with that embarrassing 1-0 home defeat by Toulon, end up? Both in Italy? Neither?

Bernard Tapie seems intent on a great clean-out at Marseille; if that be the word. Papin, Pele, Waddle, Steven all seem certain to go. And then what?

There is talk of buying Zvonimir Boban, Milan's property at the moment — if they have by now paid the money Boban and his father allege they are owed — but on loan to Bari, and doing nothing of consequence.

A real gamble, this, though the transfer of that other Yugoslav, Stojkovic, has not turned out to be an error.

Like Prosinecki at Real Madrid, he has been so often injured that he has scarcely played. What is it about these former Red Star stars?

Papin seemed booked for Milan, then for Juventus, but there Giampiero Boniperti, back as chief executive, has not quite shared the enthusiasm of the boss, "Lawyer" Agnelli, whom he has counselled against importing Papin — a doubtful quantity in Boni's view. Papin says he might still go to Spain.

Inter are said to be in for Pele and by the time you read this may even have acquired him to follow Matthias Sammer of Germany and Lazio's Uruguayan, Ruben Sosa.

Next term, each Italian club can sign four foreign players but field only three. Jurgen Klinsmann and Andy Brehme seem to be on their way. Lothar Matthaus has not had a good season, but could well remain. Which would leave Pele fighting for a place. But Sampdoria will have room for foreigners.

Cantona, the eternal enfant terrible,

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

THAT'S THE FINISH, SAYS CEULEMANS

SOCCER in Belgium will not be the same from now on. Jan Ceulemans celebrated his 34th birthday by retiring.

Ceulemans won a record 96 caps and scored 23 goals.

He played a total of 517 League games for his two clubs, SK Lierse and Club Brugge, scoring 229 times, and netted another 11 in 39 European matches.

He was chosen as Footballer of the Year three times, and his retirement leaves a big gap.

Marc Degryse is the Footballer of the Year for 1991. Although he is still only 26, he has played 255 League matches for Club Brugge and Anderlecht, for whom he signed a new five-year contract in January.

The champions, Anderlecht, made an impressive start to the season's second half by beating Kortrijk 6-0, but then lost 2-0 at home to Genk.

There was another surprise when Mechelen were beaten 3-1 by Beveren, who have a gifted young striker in Van Vossen.

Ceulemans . . . a record 96 caps.

seems eternally to find a way out of his difficulties. He fell out with Sheffield Wednesday after a week's weather-ruined trial . . . then turned up at Leeds. There is no doubt of Cantona's tremendous ability, as both technician and finisher; just as there is equally little doubt of his wayward character.

Papin and Cantona; potentially a severe threat to England when the teams meet in Sweden. Meanwhile, to replace Papin, Marseille may well exercise their rights on the gifted Argentine striker Leo Rodriguez, lent, as luck and irony would have it, to none other than Toulon.

Rodriguez, a great success in the Copa America last summer, has impressed Tapie. But how far can the Hannah Arendt theory of Creative Destruction — knocking down to build better — be taken by Tapie? The African Nations' Cup bristled with players from the French League.

But how long can this go on, and how long can France rely on an endless flow of African talent? This one asks because an Italian agency has now been set up in Africa, with the skilled manipulator Ricci as the guiding force.

No fewer than 41 players were allegedly signed by the agency. Italian clubs are becoming more and more interested in African players and French clubs less and less able to compete.

Missed

Of the teams in the final, Tiehi of the Ivory Coast, who missed that glorious chance at the end of extra time, is playing for Le Havre, a surprise packet this season. Otokore plays for Auxerre, who have been giving, apart from that disappointing defeat by Liverpool, such a good account of themselves. Traore, who went on as a substitute, is with Ales.

Pele, Ghana's shining star, who missed the final through suspension, is with Marseille, for the moment. Fofana, who also missed the final, is at Monaco.

Then of course there were such as the gifted veteran, Bocande, of the host nation Senegal, who have forgiven him after various bickerings in the past, when he was not available when needed. He is now with Lens, having been bobbing about in French football for years.

Of the Cameroon team, the brothers Omam-Biyik (Cannes) and Kana-Biyik, a scorer in Senegal, now at Le Havre, are prominent figures.

Weah is the solitary Liberian, but he has done splendid things for Monaco. Bouderbala of Morocco is playing for Lyon. And so it goes on. But for how long? Didier Otokore, happy enough in Senegal has not been remotely so happy at Auxerre, and wants to leave.

"When you belong to one of the best teams in France," he says, "your one ambition is to play." For two or three seasons, he says, he was a first-team player. But the longer he has been obliged to sit on the bench, the more he feels that he is going backwards.

His technique remains sound, his morale is falling to pieces. Guy Roux, the greatest eminence of Auxerre football across the years, "always finds excuses not to play me." A bitter pill for a player who has been at Auxerre since he was 16 and, at 23, still has a contract with four full years to run. Difficult days, especially as Roux will not even send him out on loan, let alone transfer him. Senegal must have been a happy holiday.

Injury to Bruno Martini, the Auxerre keeper who is now French first choice, opened the way to the gifted but somewhat volatile Gilles Rousset, twice suspended this season, and dropped for a time by his club, Lyon. Off to Florida for a holiday he went and there, he says, he recharged his batteries.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

PRAY FOR A PLAGUE!

APRES Milan, le deluge . . . In the wake of AC Milan's 1-1 home draw last month in their eagerly awaited top of table clash with closest rivals Juventus, there seems little hope for rival title aspirants.

With three months of the Italian season to go, it seems that nothing can stop the unbeaten Milan.

Juventus et al can only hope for an outbreak of bubonic plague or a sudden conversion to charitable works within the Milan camp.

In the immediate aftermath of the 1-1 draw at San Siro, Juventus goalkeeper and "senator" Stefano Tacconi tried to breath life back into the championship race by suggesting that the media had got it all wrong about Milan.

They are not "stratospheric", he suggested, adding that the title race was far from over — yet.

Tacconi's words contrasted strangely with the frank post-match admission of his own coach, Giovanni Trapattoni.

Asked why his side had played a largely defensive game in a match which, by rights, they had to win if they were to really open up the title contest again, "Trap" replied: "Against this Milan, we couldn't do any more." Indeed. Watching Milan humble Torino 2-0 in an Italian Cup game just two days later with a team that included five reserve players, one thought of Trapattoni's assessment.

Trapattoni . . . theory.

Gullit . . . defended the draw in Florence.

Nothing to be done, as Beckett's Estragon might have said.

Even Milan's 0-0 away draw with Fiorentina one week later left little hope for the others.

As Ruud Gullit remarked when denying that Milan had played badly in Florence: "A point lost, you say? If I am not mistaken, Juventus were well beaten on this same ground, not long ago." Indeed, right again.

Perhaps the most disheartening aspect of the Milan draws with Juventus and Fiorentina was not that the leaders kept on picking up the points but that in both games they opted for "safety first". They played for the draw where, in a past incarnation, they might have played for the win.

Trapattoni, no less, is the authoritative commentator who recently suggested that this year's Milan, coached by Fabio Capello, are more dangerous than the team coached by Arrigo Sacchi precisely because of this more "Italian" attitude.

"Trap" puts forward the intriguing theory that the exuberance of the Sacchi Milan, their insistence on winning 3-0 and 4-0 in games that might have been wrapped up at 2-0, perhaps burnt up too much energy, leading the side to "blow up" in the critical March-April springtime.

With a more cynical attitude, Sacchi's Milan might have picked up more than one title, argues Trapattoni.

While Milan march on, the rest have no option but to turn their thoughts to other projects. For the refound Sampdoria, unbeaten in a 14-game run from November 24 through to mid-February, the Champions' Cup suddenly looks a real possibility.

For last year's champions, European compensation for having missed out on the title contest may be closer than they think.

Torino and Genoa in the UEFA Cup and AS Roma in the Cup-winners' Cup all have similar European dates to comfort them through the dark, Milan-dominated nights. (See European previews on pages 6-15).

Internazionale, however, have no exciting alternatives.

Having exhausted the initial flow of enthusiasm prompted by the January resignation of coach Corrado Orrico to make way for the old hero, Spaniard Luis Suarez, Inter stumbled to defeat by Verona and a home draw with Sampdoria that left them 12 points behind Milan with only 13 matches remaining.

That was enough to prompt long-term plans.

Chance

Most important of these is the suggestion that Inter will no longer be a German-dominated club.

All three foreigners, Germans Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann, may soon be on their bikes.

Brehme's recurrent injury problems mean that he is 100 per cent certain to be sold. Klinsmann and Matthaus have some chance of remaining but it is worth noting that the club have Belgian Enzo Scifo of Torino, Uruguayan Ruben Sosa of Lazio and German Matthias Sammer in their sights.

Sammer already has been bought and parked with VfB Stuttgart, while Scifo is a former Inter player sold to Torino with a binding, "buy-back" clause.

Klinsmann . . . his place appears to be in danger.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Mendoza: FROM FRYING PAN TO FIRE

A RECENT biography of Ramon Mendoza, president of Real Madrid, is called The Godfather. And Mendoza, having made Leo Beenhakker an offer he couldn't refuse, ruthlessly executed Raddy Antic — not for failing to produce the goods but for failing to gift-wrap the points and forgetting to tie a ribbon around them.

Mendoza (above) complained that the team's play simply was not up to Real's traditional standards of artistry, and Beenhakker came in to work the oracle. Subsequent events have evoked hackneyed tales about frying pans and fires.

Beenhakker promised fun and a fiesta of football. After a 1-1 draw with Cadiz, who had taken two points from 10 previous visits to the Bernabeu, that particular custard pie was thrown back in his face.

Next day, godfather Mendoza dragged Beenhakker into the boardroom and gave him a roasting.

Why had he fielded a five-man defence against a solitary Cadiz forward? Why had he not replaced the injured Butragueno with new wonder-boy Alfonso?

Three days later, Real looked to be on the mend when, with a three-man defence and Butragueno back in the firing line, they raced into a two-goal lead against Valencia in the quarter-finals of the Spanish Cup, with superb goals from Michel and Butragueno.

Bulgarian Lubo Penev, however, pulled one back with an equally superb second-half free-kick, and things suddenly looked bleak for the return in Valencia.

Three days later, Real visited Valladolid, 18th with three wins in 20 games. Valladolid were good value for their 2-1 victory.

This left Real only two points ahead of Barcelona, whose form has levelled off in recent weeks — much to the relief of their Champions' Cup opponents.

Life at the Nou Camp was so uneventful that neighbours Espanol were able to sneak into the limelight for all the wrong reasons.

Jaime Sabate's sacking allowed the former boss, Javier Clemente, to return to Sarria. The team, rapidly assimilating Clemente's battle orders, ground out home wins against Real Sociedad and Zaragoza.

Dumped

Then a 1-0 defeat in Oviedo combined with Mallorca's 2-1 win over Logrones dumped them back into bottom place, and willingness to reach for the panic button was typified by the reaction when newly-signed forward Igor Korneev damaged a ligament.

Even though his estimated absence was only eight weeks, the Espanol board dived back into the market and came up with CSKA Moscow's international midfielder Dimitri Kuznetsov — the seventh foreign player to tread the turf at Sarria this season. To make room, Argentine striker Alfaro Moreno has left.

Back at Real, the scouting staff are scouring the market for reinforcements. One of Beenhakker's first moves was to drop Hugo Sanchez, who has yet to get out of bottom gear since his eight-month lay-off.

Moves towards Dennis Bergkamp of Ajax have been blocked, and there is consternation over the lack of suitable replacements for Hugo Sanchez.

Mendoza has been beaten in other duels, too. Deportivo La Coruna, maintaining respectability in the top bracket, persuaded 22-year-old international midfielder Francisco Javier Gonzalez Perez, thankfully known as Fran, to extend his contract until 1995, only to find that Real Madrid had already filed a contract with the Federation, valid as from next season.

The player could only recall his agent having given him a blank contract to sign back in 1989, and Coruna president Augusto Lendoiro threatened Mendoza with everything but violin cases at dawn. Real backtracked in exchange for first option in 1995.

Atletico Madrid continue to reflect the volatile nature of their president. Consecutive defeats by Logrones, La Coruna and Albacete had Jesus Gil breathing fire in the dressing-room and manager Luis Aragones tendering his resignation.

The players asked Gil to remove the vitriol from his language and retain Aragones. They then persuaded him to stay and, led by inspired skipper Paulo Futre, recovered a degree of form in both League and Cup.

HOW REAL'S BIG THREE COMPARE

BEENHAKKER	P	W	D	L	G	A
League	120	80	30	10	270	100
Spanish Cup	23	13	5	5	48	29
Supercup	2	1	0	1	3	2
Europe	24	13	5	6	36	27
Total	*169*	*107*	*40*	*22*	*357*	*158*

TOSHACK						
League	49	31	13	5	121	48
Spanish Cup	7	4	1	2	9	3
Europe	8	6	1	1	31	6
Total	*64*	*41*	*15*	*8*	*161*	*57*

ANTIC						
League	30	22	4	4	67	25
Spanish Cup	2	1	0	1	5	2
Europe	6	4	1	1	11	4
Total	*38*	*27*	*5*	*6*	*83*	*31*

Average points per match:

Antic	1.55
Toshack	1.52
Beenhakker	1.50

Average goals per match:

Toshack	2.52
Antic	2.18
Beenhakker	2.11

Ratio (goals for v goals against):

Toshack	2.82
Antic	2.68
Beenhakker	2.26

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Torsten admits spying for Stasi

THE disclosures that players and officials of Dynamo Dresden and Hansa Rostock and former national team manager Eduard Geyer were either members of or paid informers for the East German state police sent tremors through German football.

Dynamo Dresden, despite being controlled by the Ministry of the Interior and thus closely associated with the Stasi police, were the most popular soccer outfit in the old GDR.

They were runners-up last year in the now defunct East German Oberliga, were promoted and are now playing in the first all-German National Federal League, the Bundesliga.

Grassed

Last season's top scorer, Dresden's Torsten Gutschow, set the chain of confessions in motion when he made the astonishing admission that he "grassed" on 60 people including the family who later became his in-laws, Dresden president Wolf-Rudiger Ziegenbalg, manager Reinhard Hafner, and ten team-mates.

Some of the players informed about one another, as did club doctor Wolfgang Klein and physiotherapist Horst Friedel, who were ordered to spy on each other.

Klein admits that he was recruited by the Stasi in 1977. The dreaded security policy had about 85,000 members, mostly full-time.

Gutschow, plagued by guilt, confessed: "I was 17 and madly in love with Andrea, my wife. The Stasi came and gave me an ultimatum: either I stop seeing her, or I work for them. I couldn't bear the thought of losing my girl."

The police had found out that Andrea's parents were contemplating leaving the country illegally, and they wanted Gutschow to report their moves.

In May 1982 Gutschow signed a binding document of engagement with his own and the cover name of Schroter — his former soccer idol.

Thus he was trapped with this written pledge: "I know that if I break the code of silence, I could, according to GDR law, be criminally prosecuted."

The Stasi were particularly on the look-out for citizens who enjoyed the luxury of going abroad and mixing with westerners, especially Germans.

Gutschow concedes: "I didn't have the courage to take the first step, to confess. Lately I couldn't sleep and cried more than in my whole life previously." His wife Andrea supports him.

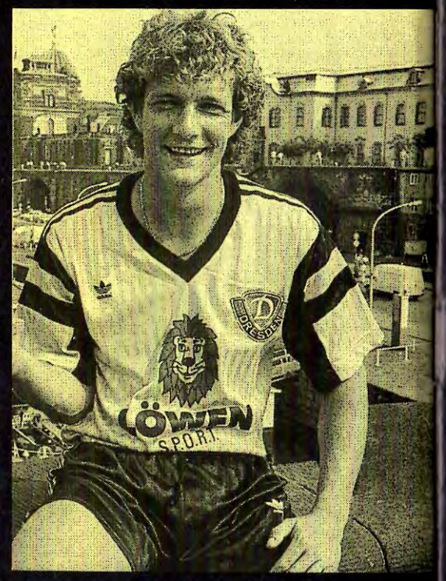
At Dresden the players are asking for forgiveness and they know how hard it must have been for him to come to terms with what he had done.

Team manager Helmut Schulte insists: "We, as a team, are on Torsten's side. We will help him and of course keep him. I was impressed how honestly he admitted his guilt. I'd rather have one confessing sinner than 100 self-righteous men".

The last GDR champions Hansa Rostock, now also in the Bundesliga, report that three players, Florian Weichert, Stefan Persigehl and Gernot Alms, also disclosed that they were blackmailed into working for the Stasi.

Eduard Geyer admitted that he informed for the security police for 21 years, and that included spying on the internationals Matthias Sammer and Ulf Kirsten, formerly of Dresden.

"I can't wash my hands of this sad affair, it was shameful," said Geyer who is now managing Hungarians Banyasz Siofok.



Blackmailed . . . Gutschow was forced to spy on his Dresden colleagues by the dreaded Stasi.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

Advocaat rises to the top
Westerhof is climbing, too

THE two big managerial jobs in Holland have been handed out. Hans Westerhof will succeed Bobby Robson as manager of PSV at the end of this season, and Dick Advocaat will take over from Rinus Michels as manager of the national squad.

Advocaat (above) will lead Holland through the World Cup qualifiers. If the team reach America, Johan Cruyff will take over as manager for the finals.

That was the initial plan. Recently, though, Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit have suggested that if Cruyff wants to manage at the World Cup he should carry the qualifying burden too.

Frank Rijkaard said: "What's the point of announcing now who's going to become manager in 1994? Soon they'll be saying who'll be manager in 1998 and 2000."

Like Van Basten and Gullit, however, he believes that Cruyff is the best man for the job.

Advocaat had to choose between three plum posts. As well as being offered the national job he was asked to become manager of Feyenoord, and Leo Beenhakker offered him a job as his assistant at Real Madrid.

Den Haag also asked him to take over but with such competition they stood no chance. Advocaat hesitated between the main three offers, and Feyenoord were quite surprised to hear his answer. Presumably Real are seldom turned down either.

This represents a rapid rise for Advocaat. He was born in The Hague 44 years ago, started his career with ADO, the club that later became FC Den Haag, and then played for Roda Kerkrade, VVV, Chicago Sting, Sparta, and Belgium's Berchem Sport.

He was a defensive midfielder noted for his tactical acumen and aggression.

At the age of 37 he became assistant manager of the Dutch national team. He assisted Michels and Leo Beenhakker and became very close to both.

Michels always pushed Advocaat's claims to take over the side.

In 1987 Advocaat entered league football as manager of Haarlem. He was successful, but was much criticised for his defensive approach. He moved to SVV Schiedam in 1989 and won promotion, but left at the beginning of this season after a row.

The doubt is whether Advocaat and Cruyff can work together in the States. Advocaat is far more defensive-minded, and is thought too independent to co-operate with the autocratic Cruyff. And he is in a no-win situation.

If he fares badly in the qualifiers the blame is all his. If he does well, Cruyff takes over when the real thing arrives. There is some pressure now on Cruyff to pull out, to leave Advocaat a real job.

If Holland start playing well at last — and Advocaat is now assistant manager — the pressure will grow.

Cruyff, for the first time in his life, might find himself the loser.

Ended

As yet there are no signs that Holland will recover their form of 1988. Last month's friendly in Faro ended in a disastrous 2-0 defeat.

Portugal must feel hard done by, for Holland qualified for the European Championship at their expense. After the last three games between them it is hard to believe that the best side won the group.

Holland were without their Milanese trio of Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard, and two players made their debut: AA Gent striker Eric Viscaal, 23, and Feyenoord winger Gaston Taument, 21, currently the form player in the Dutch League.

PSV are now trying to change their policy. Robson's replacement, Westerhof, has managed FC Groningen most successfully since 1988 and has won great respect for his personality as well as his ability.

Westerhof is calm, modest and can speak intelligently about the world as well as about football.

On the rare occasions when things go badly for him, the press are apt to sneer that he is a "social worker", because he says friendship and honesty within his squad are more important than results.

He never speaks in cliches, and cleverly brings down journalists who ask him cliche questions. When asked if money was unimportant to him, he answered: "I'll never say that. To say that is an insult to people who suffer hardship."

He admits his shortcomings: "I'm in no position to show Milko Djurovski (Groningen's brilliant Yugoslav striker) how to kick a ball."

Debutant . . . AA Gent striker Eric Viscaal.

Westerhof is everything that Robson is not. He has no international experience; he had an undistinguished playing career; as a Dutchman, he starts with a far greater knowledge of Dutch football than Robson did; and while Robson dislikes the notion of player power, Westerhof believes in conferring with his players.

PSV's squad at first opposed the club's plan to appoint him, thinking him too gentle and inexperienced, but they changed their minds when they saw a TV programme on his training methods.

Groningen's Edwin Olde Riekerink explains: "From Thursday, Westerhof works on specific situations that he expects to occur in Sunday's match.

"When they do occur, and you find that you can deal with them, you're impressed."

Referees accused of taking bribes

THIRTY top German referees are facing fines and/or suspensions after charges that they accepted expensive gifts from clubs which could be construed as attempts at bribery.

Although there is no evidence (as yet) that results of matches controlled by the officials in question were influenced, the DFB are concerned over the bad publicity and have instructed the chief of their disciplinary commission, Hans Kindermann, to bring in charges.

A chain reaction was set off by the former Nurnberg treasurer, Peter Karg, who disclosed that the club run a special account to pay referees' expenses, hospitality, entertainment and expensive presents.

The match officials are entitled to £33 daily expenses, but in Nurnberg they are usually entertained at an expensive restaurant and are given sophisticated keep-fit apparatus, said to be worth up to £2,000.

Entitled

The DFB ordered their referees to fill in questionnaires which reveal that gifts are standard in the Bundesliga.

In Bochum and Schalke they usually give referees watches, in Cologne electric shavers, or brief cases with the club's emblem. In Frankfurt Eintracht's jubilee plates, in Dusseldorf cast iron mediaeval figures, in Hamburg pocket radios or T-shirts, in Stuttgart giant umbrellas, in Munich decorated beer mugs, in Kaiserslautern presentation cases with four bottles of wine, in Leverkusen wallets (allegedly empty) or purses, and everywhere club badges and pennants. Some of these souvenirs are worth up to £33.

In this respect Nurnberg (nine times national champions) are the No.1 for gifts and hospitality. Not just at home, but at away games as well. Sports bags filled with pennants, cups and jerseys were handed over at the ground, the more valuable items, like the keep-fit machines, were delivered to home addresses.

Now one of the most respected German referees, former FIFA official Manfred Neuner; admits: "We have made mistakes in accepting this form of hospitality and are all agreed that this can't go on."

The DFB have specified that gifts to referees must not exceed £16 in value and that total expenditure on all referees should not cost more than £13,000 a season, yet Nurnberg's special referees account amounted to £60,000.

Bundesliga referees met at the sports school in Grunberg to discuss the problem, and admitted media representatives "so that the public are informed of our intentions to deflect any smear on our reputations."

The referees passed a resolution, addressed to the DFB, in which they admit to a certain lack of concern and thoughtlessness in the past, but emphasise that no match official allowed himself to be biased in favour of the club who gave him presents.

They deny that the gifts could have been as expensive as claimed by Nurnberg's treasurer.

Nurnberg seem sure to become the first club charged with attempts at bribery.

The treasurer, Professor Dr. Ingo Boebel, is trying to play down the importance of the charges and other accusations of financial irregularities and shortage of funds, but admits that Nurnberg have fallen behind with rent for the council owned Franken-stadion where the club play.

He and other directors cannot explain the heavy expenses in that ominous account marked "Outgoings on referees' expenses".

The German media, meanwhile, are having a field day.

Not so much class

THE half-yearly rankings of players, organised among top journalists, makes interesting reading. German experts are embarrassingly modest in their assessment of players.

Only three men, all playing abroad, are rated world class, and only five goalkeepers are called international class. They are headed by Bodo Illgner (Koln), followed by Uli Stein (Eintracht Frankfurt) and Andreas Kopke (Nurnberg).

The only libero worthy of an international label is Manfred Binz (Frankfurt).

In defensive midfield only Guido Buchwald (VfB Stuttgart), Stefan Effenberg (Bayern) and Ralf Falkenmayer (Frankfurt) are listed as international class. In attacking midfield, Andy Moller (Frankfurt), Uwe Bein (Frankfurt) and Michael Rummenigge (Dortmund) were picked.

Ranked

The only forward ranked in that class is Stephane Chapuisat (Dortmund) and he is Swiss! Among the exiles, the Germans claim to have world-class players in Jurgen Kohler (Juventus), Thomas Doll and Karl-Heinz Riedle (both Lazio).

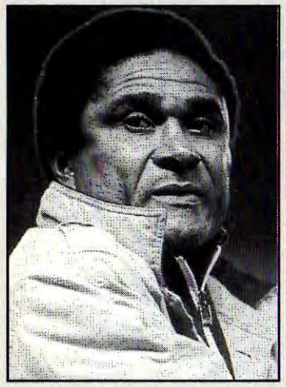
Andy Brehme and Lothar Matthaus (both Inter), Stefan Reuter (Juventus), Bernd Schuster (Atletico Madrid) and Rudi Voller (AS Roma) are international class.

After a whole month taken up by indoor tournaments in 16 towns, the Bundesliga restarted in February.

An exciting race is in prospect, for after 22 of the 38 games, only two points separated the top four clubs: Dortmund, Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart and champions Kaiserslautern.

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

A NATION'S TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND



Now and then . . . Eusebio (left) as he is today, and playing against Hungary in the 1966 World Cup match at Old Trafford.

A STATUE of Eusebio was unveiled at Benfica's stadium on his 50th birthday, when Portugal felt that it was time to publicly recognise him as the true representative of Portuguese sport.

The man was outstanding: 727 goals for Benfica, in 715 games. In UEFA competitions he is still the record holder with 57 goals, 46 of them in the Champions' Cup, and he scored another 41 for the national team.

Six operations on his left knee never prevented him from coming back to score. As a true sportsman, he is still idolised through the whole of Portugal and in Mozambique, where he was born. He is remembered and appreciated all over the world. And quite rightly.

His merits and personality had been recognised when he was awarded national honours in 1962, 1973, 1981 and 1990, but now President Eusebio Soares has said that on October 5 (Republican Day) he will award Eusebio the Order of the Infante (Henry the Navigator) something that only Carlos Lopes and Rosa Mota, the Olympic gold medallists, have achieved.

"Don't let that little boy go!" said Bella Guttmann, Benfica's manager, when he saw Eusebio for the first time.

The old Hungarian fox had no doubts about the quality of the young African player who had just arrived.

Scoring

Eusebio had started playing for Sporting Lourenco Marques (Maputo). Three years later he was introduced to the crowds at Estadio da Luz and in his first game, a friendly, he scored three goals. This was in 1961 when Benfica were European Champions.

In June, in Paris, he scored another three but that was different — it was against Santos and against Pele. He was called to play for Portugal for the first time in October 1961, and in the 1962 Champions' Cup Final, in Amsterdam, he scored two against Real Madrid and Di Stefano, in the 5-3 victory that sealed the end of the Spanish club's domination of Europe.

In 1966, he was in England for the World Cup and became top scorer with nine goals. He covered himself with glory both at Goodison Park and at Wembley.

Then, until 1974-75, he went on and on with more glory and more fame.

Now, at long last, Portugal is paying the unpaid debt. The beautiful statue, a gift from a Portuguese citizen who lives in the United States, is the ultimate recognition of a football immortal.

Eusebio's old club are still in the running for yet another title, closing the gap to two points after 22 matches with a 2-0 win at Estoril.

Porto, who conceded only two goals in their first 18 games, were top with 35 points.

ISRAEL BY NADAV YA'ACOBY

TOP COACHES IN SHORT SUPPLY

THERE seems no end to the farce of the national caoch — or lack of one.

Ivica Osim will not be the man in charge. Nobody knows who will be.

Israeli FA chairman Haim Haberfeld says that only a European coach will have the experience and professional attitude needed for the coming World Cup matches.

Fair enough — but what top coach would go to a country where football is of so little general importance?

Plenty of coaches from the second or third rank would love the job, but after the experiences of Yugoslav Milienko Mihic and Englishman Jack Mansell, such people are unwanted.

Osim was a likely candidate, but the Yugoslav Federation and is club, Partizan Belgrade, would not let him go. Valeri Lobanovski, now in the United Arab Emirates, wants 400,000 dollars a year, which is too much.

Building

Haberfeld says: "We don't have to rush. There are still eight months before our first match in the World Cup."

True . . . but why waste time? Why not find a coach who can start building straight away?

The uncertainty was evident in the match against the CIS, who won 2-1 in Jerusalem despite the absence of all the western-based players.

The Israelis, under Yitzhak Shenor and Ya'acov Grundman, played very poorly.

Grundman is thought to be a candidate for the national job, as are three other Israelis: Shlomo Sharf of Maccabi Haifa, Gyora Spiegel of Bnei Yehuda, and Avraham Grant of Maccabi Tel Aviv. Sharf is the favourite.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

THE problems continued for Olympiakos, Greece's most successful club, as a second former president was jailed.

Argyris Saliarelis was taken to prison after testifying on fraud charges related to the sale of Hungarian international Lajos Detari to Italy's Bologna two years ago.

Proceedings were instituted after an audit revealed that no entry had been made in the club's books for the $2.5 million received for Detari's transfer.

Saliarelis is in the same prison as the man he succeeded as president, George Koskotas, who was involved in embezzling money from the bank he owned.

An investigation revealed that Olympiakos currently owe the state $33 million after a series of scandals including non-payment of certain players and transfer fees.

The problems were brought up at a recent Parliament session, and the Government has asked other political parties to look into ways the state can help the club.

The national team beat Romania 1-0 in a friendly in Yiannina before 9,000 fans, with a goal by Yiotis Tsalouhidis.

Here's one for the record books. In the Greek First Division there are three brothers playing for different teams and they all scored on the same day.

Christos Dimopoulos scored twice for Athinaikos against Panserraikos; Spyros one for Ethnikos against Apollon, and Thanasis one for Iraklis at Panionios.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWISS referees have been instructed to apply the rules more strictly, but also to use their common sense, after the first half of the season brought more sendings-off and bookings — respectively 10 and 34 up on last term.

Experts think that the new regulations regarding the professional foul have been interpreted more severely and that it will take a little while yet for the players to fully grasp the new directives.

The 132 League matches in the so-called "qualifying round" attracted on average 6,887 spectators, 200 more than a year ago. The highest attendances were at Xamax Neutchatel, with 9,845 on average, followed by Luzern (9,445) and Sion (8,954). The lowest were at Wettingen, with 2,695 per match.

Wettingen, virtually abandoned by fans, are facing oblivion. They could not afford to pay the players' wages, so that the League had to intervene and paid out of a special fund.

German team manager Wolfgang Frank and three of his compatriots, are contemplating leaving.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Double shock for Tirol

THIRD-PLACED Swarovski Tirol, dumped unceremoniously out of the UEFA Cup by Liverpool, had two further shocks to contend with as they prepared for the second half of the season.

When the squad assembled for the journey to the training camp on the island of Madeira, Argentine Nestor Gorosito was missing. Apparently he refused to travel because he does not want to play for the Innsbrucker any more, and plans to return to his first club, San Lorenzo in Buenos Aires.

The second shock came when Horst Hrubesch, team manager in succession to Ernst Happel, who has taken over as national team boss, felt unwell on the team bus and had to be transported to hospital.

Doctors diagnosed heart rhythm changes, though his condition gives no rise to anxiety. Hrubesch was subsequently optimistic and declared himself fit to catch up with the travelling party.

Happel, now 66, also needed therapy treatment in an Innsbruck hospital after Christmas.

Herzog . . . needs an operation.

Meanwhile Happel's old club, Rapid Vienna, made themselves a laughing stock in the traditional Viennese indoor tournament. Although no foreign teams were engaged, the Rapidler played in a group of five and lost every match, including two against second-class opposition.

To make matters worse, international schemer Andreas Herzog was hurt and needed a cartilage operation.

The event attracted 40,000 fans and was won by FK Austria, who remained unbeaten.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIM COLLINGS

Osim in a parlous position

HOPES of Yugoslavia's appearance in the European Championship finals, let alone fielding their strongest possible "national" team, remained threatened by the continuing unrest and fighting.

Coach Ivica Osim does not know which way to turn, and there are strong feelings on all sides.

Osim, a Bosnian, is in a very difficult position as he attempts to keep together most of the team who swept Yugoslavia through the qualifiers and at the same time reconcile that difficulty with his other conflicting role as coach of Partizan Belgrade.

"The internal strife is bad enough as it is," he said. "It is bad for morale and upsets everyone. But add to that all the other problems we face now and it is a huge challenge for us to overcome. We have problems with getting our players back from clubs abroad and, as everyone knows, we have enormous political problems. We also have a vevy long domestic season to complete after the winter break. It will not finish until two weeks before the European finals start."

Osim . . . only one warm-up game.

Johansson . . . protests are likely.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson has gone on record as saying that Yugoslavia would be barred from the finals if players from Slovenia and Croatia were not made available for a unified "national" team.

A final decision on this is not likely until April. Then, if Yugoslavia scratch from the competition, it is likely that Denmark, who were second in their qualifying section, will take their place.

Johansson said: "On the basis of the civil war in Yugoslavia and not least the shooting down of five European Community peace monitors, I find it very hard to see how Yugoslavia can be among the participants this summer. Who can represent the whole country? If it is Serbia, then Croatia will protest, and so on."

Johansson's views provoked a strong reaction from Dusan Marovic, international secretary of the Yugoslav Federation.

He said: "There has been speculation about the possible replacement of our team, but this is nonsense. We are OK according to all UEFA rules.

"Yugoslavia, as Yugoslavia, is still a member of the United Nations and of FIFA, and the attempts of some people to wipe us from the map have nothing to do with sport.

"The Football Associations of Croatia and Slovenia forbade their players to join the Yugoslav team and in that way they deprived them of participation in the European finals."

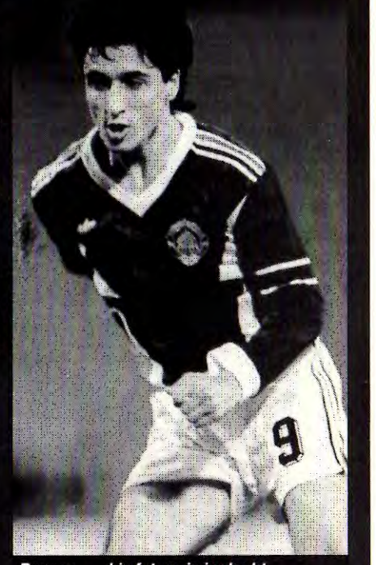
UEFA, meanwhile, have set an April 1 deadline for a final decision on Yugoslavia's participation and put Denmark on standby.

By then, Osim will be more keenly aware of his team's strength. They will have played their only scheduled warm-up match, against Holland in Rotterdam on March 25.

To further complicate matters for Osim, however, a fresh threat arose last month when Macedonia was dragged into the chaos by claims from politicians that all Macedonian players should be brought home and prevented from playing for clubs elsewhere.

This would affect, among others, Darko Pancev ,whose goalscoring exploits for Red Star have made him one of Yugoslavia's most dangerous players.

For Osim, deprived of so many players, the only two items of good news came when Slovenia's federation announced that their players would be free to play for Yugoslavia in the finals — and an offer to take over as coach of the Israeli national team. He is sure to consider that approach with care.



Pancev . . . his future is in doubt.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Laudrup's lift

DANISH soccer received a wonderful double boost when talented striker Brian Laudrup agreed to return to the national side and Brondby manager Morten Olsen surprised everyone by agreeing to sign a new three-year contract.

Laudrup, 23, had boycotted international football since a huge row with Denmark team coach Richard Moller Nielsen about the style of play. His elder brother Michael also went into self-imposed exile. And despite Brian's compromise with Moller Nielsen, Barcelona's Michael refused to return until there is a new coach.

The younger Laudrup, who plays for Bayern Munich, reached a private agreement with Moller Nielsen after being out in the cold since the home defeat against Yugoslavia in November 1990. Moller Nielsen said: "I'm delighted Brian is back. He will strengthen our attack and will give us an element of surprise."

Laudrup added: "After our talks let me say that I have full confidence in the coach. I'll be very glad to play for Denmark again and I hope I can help us qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals in America."

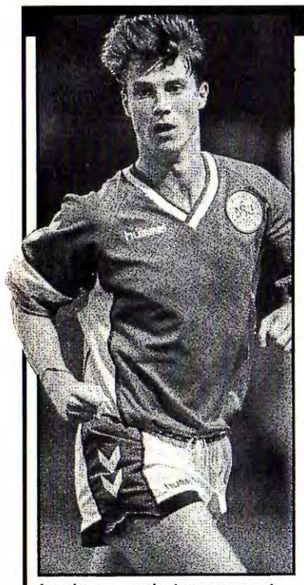
Reasoning

Danish football fans were also relieved to see Morten Olsen finally pledge his future to Brondby after it seemed certain he would leave. Olsen's public reasoning for his decision was sound enough and made with the dramatic claim that the Danish League would soon be on a par with the Bundesliga.

He said: "I want to settle in Denmark rather than become a traveller round Europe again as I was as a player.

"I also believe that there is a great future for Danish clubs. Quite soon there will be many who are better than teams in Germany. Why should I go to Germany?"

But behind the talk there is also the well-understood motivation of wanting to be the next manager of the Danish national side. It is an open secret that the job is Olsen's for the taking as soon as Moller Nielsen leaves. He won't speculate, but the knowledge lies behind signing a secure three-year deal at Brondby which will take him to July 1 1994.



Laudrup . . . private agreement.

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WALES BY PETER FERGUSON

GORDON TAKES ON ANOTHER CHALLENGE

SMALL clubs often lose leading players once a good Cup run is over, with the big boys swooping in, chequebooks at the ready.

Wrexham, who knocked Arsenal out of the FA Cup and took West Ham to a replay, promptly lost one of their top men . . . but not to a leading British club.

Former Welsh international forward Gordon Davies walked off the pitch, packed his bags and was soon on a plane bound for a new career in Norway.

Davies, the Merthyr PE teacher who gained full marks for goalscoring, has taken charge of Second Division newcomers Maloy Tornado, four hours north of Bergen and a world away from the goldfish bowl of the English game.

Baffling

He said: "There'll be pressure, of course, as a rookie player-manager, but there won't be so much media attention or the intense pressure there is here. It's a chance that's come perhaps a bit too early, but one I'd be silly to turn down. I'm looking forward to it."

Davies had delayed his departure take part in the replay, yet the FA Cup had been no kinder in the past than the brief, baffling First Division experience of a striker who repaid Fulham's £5,000 outlay with 113 goals in 247 League matches during his first spell at Craven Cottage.

"I don't think I've ever actually got past the fourth round with any of my clubs," says Davies after several seconds in thought. He needs longer to attempt to analyse the two years with Chelsea and Manchester City, which left him puzzled but philosophical.

He made the short upmarket move to Chelsea in November 1984 for £90,000, at the behest of manager John Neal and chairman Ken Bates.

But he completed only 15 senior appearances while at Stamford Bridge. "Kerry Dixon and David Speedie were both ahead of me, and Chelsea were never going to play 4-3-3," he says. "I scored a hat-trick at Goodison when we beat Everton 4-3. John Neal came to me on the coach home and said: 'They can't drop you now, son.' John's heart trouble had started by then, and I gathered that others were picking the team.

"In the next match, at QPR, I made the first goal and won a penalty in a 2-2 draw. Next week, against Arsenal, I wasn't even in the 16.

"When Ken Bates sold me to Manchester City a year after buying me, he told he didn't really want me to go. Billy McNeill signed me, but when he left his parting shot was: 'Gordon's not the man to keep you in the First Division.' Jimmy Frizzell took over, and agreed.

Brick

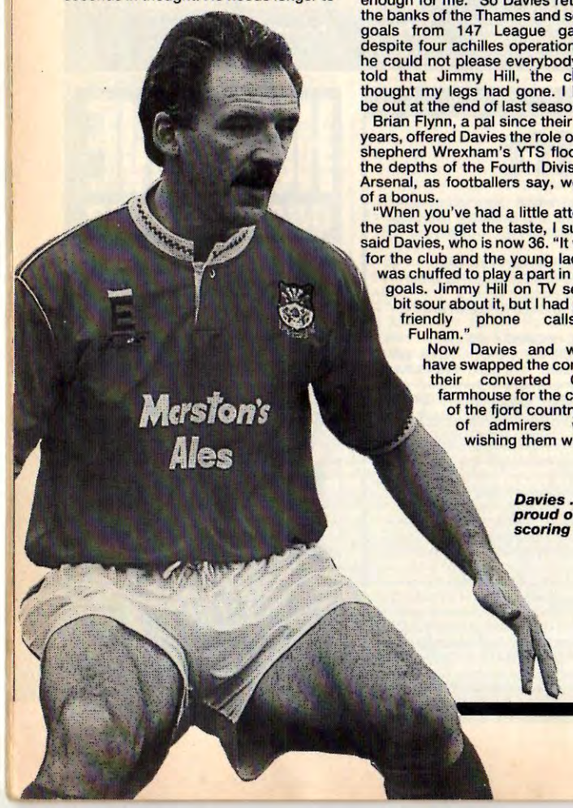
"All the goals in the world for the reserves weren't going to get me back in. Ray Lewington gave me the chance to go back to Fulham, and I took it.

"I would have stayed at City, but with a brick wall in front of you what's the point? I'd proved to myself I could score goals at that level, and that was enough for me." So Davies returned to the banks of the Thames and scored 45 goals from 147 League games — despite four achilles operations — but he could not please everybody. "I was told that Jimmy Hill, the chairman, thought my legs had gone. I knew I'd be out at the end of last season."

Brian Flynn, a pal since their teenage years, offered Davies the role of helping shepherd Wrexham's YTS flock out of the depths of the Fourth Division, and Arsenal, as footballers say, were a bit of a bonus.

"When you've had a little attention in the past you get the taste, I suppose," said Davies, who is now 36. "It was nice for the club and the young lads, and I was chuffed to play a part in both our goals. Jimmy Hill on TV seemed a bit sour about it, but I had plenty of friendly phone calls from Fulham."

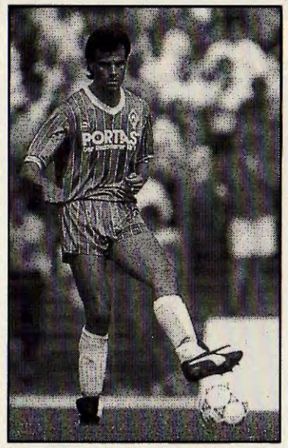
Now Davies and wife Sue have swapped the comforts of their converted Cheshire farmhouse for the challenge of the fjord country. Plenty of admirers will be wishing them well.



Davies . . . he's proud of his scoring record.

NORWAY BY SIGURD ODEGAARD

Bratseth on his way back



Bratseth . . . plenty of quality.

FOOTBALLERS have the toughest period of physical training behind them as they prepare for a new season.

The top teams have taken part in indoor tournaments, and most have gone abroad in order to get natural grass under their studs.

When last season finished some of the top clubs were very busy in the transfer market. Rosenborg, losing Cup finalists and runners-up to Viking in the League, want to make sure that this does not happen again.

So coach Nils Arne Eggen has brought three new internationals into his squad: Tore Andre Dahlum (Start), Stig Inge Bjornebye (Kongsvinger) and Oyvind Leonhardsen (Molde).

Dahlum was top scorer in the First Division two seasons ago but the goals dried up with Start in '91. Bjornebye has been a promising player for years and felt he needed a fresh challenge. Leonhardsen had trials with Manchester City last autumn, but was not given a contract.

The most important signature for the future, however, might be the one Rosenborg got when Rune Bratseth agreed to return.

His contract with German Cup-winners' Cup hopefuls Werder Bremen expires in 1993 and he has been offered an administrative post with Rosenborg as well as playing.

After several successful years with the German club he now looks forward to bringing his family back to Norway and his beloved Trondheim. At 32 he will have lots of quality to offer.

Two clubs have had to fight serious economic crises and were near bankruptcy.

The problems of Molde and Kongsvinger, however, have been sorted out and the local authorities have contributed their share to secure their existence.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND BY PETER KELLY

National cash will help young talent

THE Republic of Ireland International team have blazed a trail through the soccer world since the 1988 European Championship.

The question that begs an answer is: what effect has the phenomenal success of the international team had on the game at home? The League of Ireland is a part-time league, and all the national squad play their club football outside the country, mainly in Britain.

Bonanza

In truth there has not been any noticeable effect. Certainly there has not been any increase in attendances, and with facilities still primitive there is not likely to be any.

The exploits of full-time professional fellow-countrymen have done little to improve the lot of the part-timers at home.

One positive consequence, however, is the financial bonanza for the Football Association of Ireland. This windfall has allowed the authorities to lay definite plans for the future, plans that should ensure the development of the game is looked after in a professional manner.

For the first time the association are in a position to offer financial assistance to clubs and leagues throughout the country, to improve their facilities. More importantly, the FAI have appointed a full-time national coach, Joe McGrath, who played professionally and managed several national youth and school teams.

He has put in place a national coaching network to develop and promote the game throughout the country.

The benefit of this work will take some years to manifest itself but it should secure the future of the game at home and provide a pool of talent to gradually replace the current internationals.

The Republic of Ireland, with a population of only 3.5 million people, will never be able to sustain a full-time professional league.

In the short term the beneficiaries of the international success will be the schoolboy and amateur game.

By investing heavily in the short term at this level, however, the semi-professional League of Ireland and the various international squads will benefit by being able to draw on a pool of players who have been professionally coached and helped to develop from an early age.

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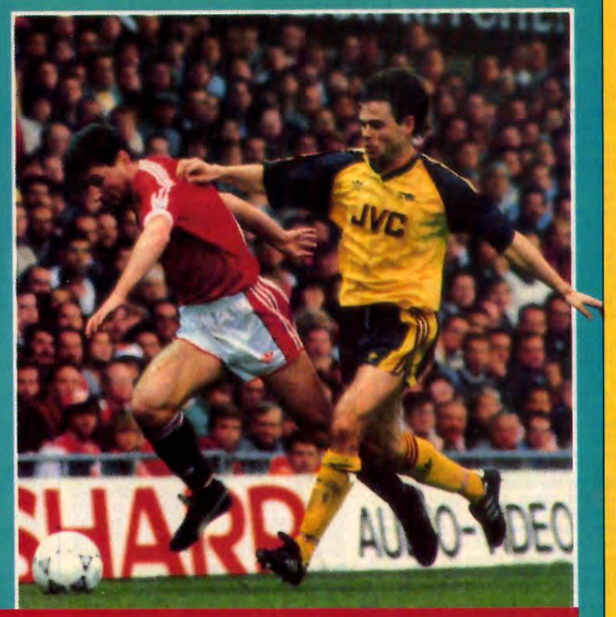

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CIS BY NEIL MORRIS

TROUBLE IN THE NEW COMMONWEALTH

THE new Commonwealth of Independent States, formerly the Soviet Union, has run into trouble even before a ball has been kicked.

The more rebellious republics such as Ukraine and Georgia withdrew their clubs with a view to establishing their own leagues, while Azerbaijani clubs were excluded from the new set-up on security grounds. None of the others wanted to go there.

Then came an even bigger blow when five Moscow clubs decided to pull out, intent on forming a league of their own.

A spokesman for the five — champions CSKA, runners-up Torpedo, third-placed Spartak, Dynamo and Lokomotive — said: "We wanted to play in the Commonwealth Championship but we do not like the idea of long, expensive and possibly dangerous journeys."

The Commonwealth programme is due to begin later this month. Apparently the latest developments will not affect plans for a joint team's participation in the European Championship, but states have been warned that under FIFA rules, any not joining the new league will find themselves in international isolation.

Ceased

The latest moves mean that the CIS Association of Football Federations virtually ceased to exist.

Vladislav Gusev, president of Zenith St. Petersburg — formerly Zenith Leningrad — says there are now 140 clubs left in Russia compared with 200 before the Glasnost revolution.

Zenith are "the 30th best club in Russia" and one of six based in the city — all having their own grounds.

"We used to have to say we were amateurs, but there was a front company that existed to pay all our wages, so now this has gone and we can be honest in saying we are professionals," said Gusev.

The club attract around 12,000 fans to their 25,000-capacity ground, which was built for them by the old municipality.

"It is a lovely ground, all covered, but they built it well away from the city centre and didn't give us any money-raising facilities such as restaurant, bar or shops, so we have nothing to attract supporters."

Despite the financial problems in the country the club have not put up admission prices "as we don't want to scare the fans away."

Crowds of 70,000 used to be common in the Soviet Union, but the fact that the best players have headed west in the past couple of years, since those under 30 were allowed to do so, means that gates have dropped dramatically.

Gusev conceded that Russian clubs may have to sell their top players to survive, but pointed to Ukraine's Kiev Dynamo as a club who sold several to western clubs and now can afford to buy anyone in the Commonwealth.

"Even our best clubs such as the big Moscow sides are having to sell," he said. "As a result they are becoming weaker. However, we realise the need for a youth programme, so we are trying hard to bring our own players through."

Such a player is 21-year-old goalkeeper Andrei Zaikine, but unsurprisingly he expresses a desire to move to a club in western Europe.

"I watch all the foreign games on TV that I can, although the choice is pretty limited," he said.

"English football seems quite different from the rest, being more forceful and so difficult for goalkeepers — the ball seems to be in the air a lot.

"Nevertheless, I would like to play there and obviously there is money to be made by a move."

He will see things at close quarters when Zenith play at Ipswich and Norwich next August.

Dwarfed

There is no administrative interference in transfers in the CIS, and it is up to the clubs to decide a deal between them. Mr Gusev said that if a player had given good service to Zenith they would go out of their way to arrange a good move for him.

Football in the former Soviet republics has been dwarfed in recent months by the dramatic domestic upheaval, although Zaikine said that (as in most countries) some supporters are so fanatical that they would only notice the government if it started altering kick-off times!

● THE CIS beat the United States 1-0 in Miami in their first international since the break-up of the Soviet Union. A week later the Americans won 2-1 in the indoor stadium at Pontiac, Michigan. Both games drew crowds of more than 30,000. In between CIS travelled to San Salvador and beat El Salvador 3-0.

ROMANIA

ROMANIAN football has lost much of the reputation it had, and the national team are no longer a real attraction.

After many a turndown, a practice game with the Greeks has been set up, so devalued that "international" is hardly the word.

Not only are the stars abroad unavailable for training games but it has been difficult to gather the home-based possibles. Dinamo have been warming up in Hungary, Craiova in Hessen and only Rapid, Galati and Petrolul performers answered the call.

This so infuriated FRF president Mircea Sandu that he is threatening suspension from League matches for those who do not appear when called.

Many a club or association official continues to behave as before. Constantin Cristea, manager at Arges Pitesti, finds himself sacked by the Pitesti Region Prefect, and the three businessmen who have taken over at Arad have seen to the departure of UT's president and manager.

Failure . . . Lineker's goal in Poznan denied Poland a place in Sweden this summer.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

PENEV'S OPTIMISM MAY BE PREMATURE

NATIONAL team manager Dimitar Penev is not displeased with the draw for the 1994 World Cup.

"It's a pleasure to play France, the group favourites, and we shall be looking to take second place in front of Sweden and Austria," he says. "We shall not underestimate anyone, and we have the potential to qualify."

Penev must have been thinking back to the 1962 preliminaries when expressing his pleasure at drawing Platini & Co, and the necessary optimism appeared somewhat exaggerated given recent lack of success in competitive football.

Other views are that playing four matces this year and six in 1993 is far from ideal. Austria will be met twice next year and France, Finland and Israel faced in reverse order in 1993, precisely what the Bulgarian delegation did not begin by seeking.

Three away matches in succession, then France at home, could mean a bad start.

Friendlies have been agreed with Portugal on March 25 and Switzerland on April 28.

Both are away, so apart from League and Cup there will be meagre local fare for fans, who welcome the agreement Red Star Belgrade have made with the Bulgarian Federation to play their outstanding home Champions' Cup games in Sofia.

Behind the scenes there is a little progress towards resolving the financial problems threatening to put several clubs out of business and throw Bulgarian football into confusion.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Which formation for Macala?

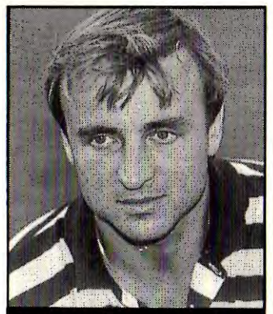
THE second half of the season begins with a friendly on March 25 against the English, historically infrequent visitors to Prague but beaten there only once.

That was in 1934, when England lost 2-1 in both Budapest and Prague, to the joy of locals who had taken some heavy beatings from FA XIs in the time of the Monarchy. These, in the case of the Czechs, included a 4-0 defeat in 1908, when Bohemia opposed England, a game surprisingly recorded as a full international.

Only one other "A" friendly has taken place in Prague in recent times so it is likely a big crowd will invade the Letna and, we hope, provide the sort of atmosphere which prevailed three years ago for the World Cup qualifier with Portugal.

Macala's squad, be it the experienced professionals from abroad or the youngsters who did well against Brazil, will be out to avenge the 4-2 defeat at Wembley, but in what formation?

Footballer of the Year Skuhravy is one certain starter. He won the annual vote with 488 points from Moravcik (St Etienne, 431) and Kubik (Metz, 351). Only four home-based players were in the first 12.



Macala . . . is facing selection and formation problems.

An ideal line-up, in 1-1-2-5-2, might be Miklosko (West Ham); Kocian (St Pauli); Suchoparek (Slavia), Novotny (Sparta); Nemecek (Sparta), Moravcik (St Etienne), Kubik (Metz), Nemec (Sparta), Kula (VfB Stuttgart); Kuka (Slavia), Skuhravy (Genoa).

Much may, of course, depend on injuries and availability, and if more home-based players were included, Glonek (Slovan) for the veteran Kocian, now a Second Division Bundesliga player, and his team colleague in Bratislava, Pecko, would be contenders.

Hapal on the right side of midfield may expect a place but that could mean a heavy month for him. He could be on the move, though probably not until the two UEFA Cup quarter-finals between Sigma and Real Madrid are played.

The betting seems to be on Koln or Hamburg when he does go but perhaps his Olomouc club can surprise Real and everyone else and put off what will be a sad day for Moravian football fans.

Should Macala decide to use only home-based players, his starting line-up might read: Kouba (Sparta); Glonek (Slovan); Suchoparek (Slavia), Novotny (Sparta); Hapal (Olomouc), Nemecek (Sparta), Kristofik (Slovan), Nemec (Sparta), Dubovsky (Slovan); Kuka (Slavia), Pecko (Slovan).

Sparta in the Champions' Cup and Sigma in the UEFA Cup will provide much more spring interest than for years. The League, too, is far from being decided, with Slovan chasing a first title for 17 years and Olomouc looking for their first ever.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

Another bleak prospect

FAILURE to qualify for the European Championship and modest international results throughout 1991 may put "Klub Polska" boss Strejlau's job on the line if things do not look up in the World Cup qualifying competition.

Fortunately for him, England do not want to know about any Group Two games before Euro '92 in Sweden. Ironically Poland's best results were when it mattered, in Dublin and at home to England.

On the other hand, the poor performance in Paris, the 4-0 defeat in Czechoslovakia, the failure to beat Wales in Radom were perhaps indicators as to the quality, or lack of it, in Strejlau's squad.

Experienced

There again, a draw in Holland was more than honourable. So where does Strejlau go next? Facing England and Holland in the 1994 qualifiers is at least known territory. Doing any better will be the problem. He may have to go for youth rather then experienced foreign-based players.

Other problems are where to play the home ties, and when. The criticism of the Poznan arena will not go away. Not only is the ground modest in every way, but the media are unhappy.

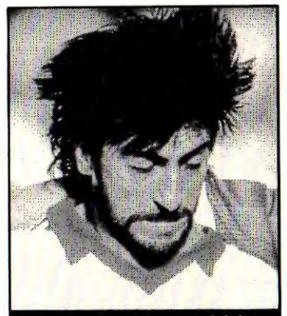
Warsaw is probably not the answer, and a half-empty Slask stadium in Chorzow is no longer the background it was.

These are matters the FA and their team chief will be pondering as the second half of the League season begins, without European representation or any matches in Sweden to look forward to.

A bleak but not unusual prospect for Polish football followers.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

RIDVAN FACES RECORD FINE



Ridvan . . . fined for complaining about Fenerbahce's negligence.

RIDVAN DILMAN, rarely out of the headlines, has been making even more of a stir than usual.

He has been fined 200 million Turkish liras, about £21,700, which is the biggest punishment ever handed out to a player in this country.

The row began when Ridvan broke a club rule and complained to a newspaper about his treatment by his club, Fenerbahce. He claimed that he was owed money and that the club had been "negligent" over his repeated injury problems.

Ridvan is a gifted little midfielder but to say he is injury-prone is understating the case. He has needed various operations — ten in all — in the past three years, and has appeared in only five games this season, all for short periods.

His complaints angered club president Metin Asak, who imposed the fine and said: "This should be an example to others. Ridvan would do well to avoid the media in future."

Many fans have complained about the severity of the fine, and Metin Asak might pay the price when the presidential election is held this month. Ali Sen, who was president 1982-86, is seeking the position again.

Suffered

Asak and all Fenerbahce followers suffered another blow when the club lost 1-0 in the Cup to a Second Division side, Kocaelispor. Coach Josef Venglos protested to FIFA about the state of the Kocaeli pitch.

This was the only surprise result, with Besiktas, Galatasaray, Trabzonspor, Genclerbirligi, Aydinspor, Altay and Bursaspor making up the other seven quarter-finalists.

The second half of the League season began with a surprise for the leaders, Besiktas, who were held to a goalless home draw by Genclerbirligi.

So Fenebahce, 3-0 winners over Aydinspor, halved the four-point gap at the top.

The third club, Galatasaray, lost ground by going down 1-0 at home to Sarlyer.

ALBANIA BY GEZIM NUSHI

RUNAWAY League leaders Vllaznia Shkodra caused the biggest surprise in the quarter-finals of the Cup, losing to Elbasani on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

So Elbasani go through to the semi-finals, with Partizani, Flamurtari and Besa. The competition will be decided in May, after the League programme has ended.

Vllaznia, who led by eight points at the time of the winter break, have now lost two outstanding players, with the sale of Zamir Shpuza and Ramiz Bisha to Budocnost of Yugoslavia.

The 100th match between Albania and Greece ended in a 1-0 win for the home team, with a goal by 21-year-old Altin Rakli. He is one of the best strikers in the country, with 12 goals for Besa in the first half of the season to follow the 27 he scored last time.

National coach Bejkush Birce had to use several youngsters because clubs would not release players to travel to Albania for the match, but the display was extremely encouraging.

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

KOZMA QUICK TO MAKE A MARK

FOR too long Hungarian football to the English has been regular reminders of Puskas and Wembley 1953. Early last month all that changed when Istvan Kozma became the first Magyar to join an English club and not just any nondescript United or City.

After a one-week trial at Liverpool, England's most successful team in domestic and European competitions, the 27-year-old Kozma was transferred from Dunfermline, the Scottish Premier Division club, for £300,000 on a two and a half year contract — making his debut as a substitute in the FA Cup fifth round tie at Ipswich.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, had not forgotten Kozma from his days at Rangers. He knows him as a versatile, adaptable and skilful footballer who has had top-level experience at full-back, midfielder and forward.

Souness said: "I was very impressed. I made several enquiries for him when at Rangers but was always quoted too much money.

"Technically Istvan is very gifted and he has the athleticism to go with that. He could have a regular place in the team if he shows his ability.

"His technical ability is suited to playing anywhere down the right, or in midfield."

Kozma . . . versatile player.

Kozma, for his part, was surprised that Liverpool wanted him, saying: "I wanted a bigger club than Dunfermline but I never thought it would be Liverpool. Graeme likes technical players; at Liverpool all the players are very good technically."

Kozma regards his two and a half years at Dunfermline as good preparation for his new challenges. But how did a French-speaking Hungarian land in the little Scottish town?

He had been transferred from Ujpest Dozsa, now UTE, to Girondins de Bordeaux in the summer of 1989. But the French club came to have more foreigners than permitted.

The Dunfermline vice-chairman, Blair Morgan, knew the Bordeaux manager Didier Couecou who, as a player had spent a month in Scotland with France before the 1966 World Cup, and the deal was struck.

Kozma says that the people of Dunfermline were very friendly, and that the players were too.

"This helped me a lot. I started learning English and now my English is better than my French."

Kozma was born in Paszto, a small country town 80 kilometres north-east of Budapest, on December 3, 1964.

His family lived at nearby Ecseg, his first football club, and the trainers who operated the network of soccer coaching courses throughout the country directed him to Salgotarjan, for whom he played while attending boarding school in that city.

When his studies were completed he was taken on by Ujpest, then managed by Miklos Temesvari, and made his First Division debut in the 1982-83 season. Since then he has won 29 caps.

"Of all the managers I have played under, the best is Gyorgy Mezey," he says. "I really like this man. He is a very good manager concerning the actual game, before it, after it, and in training. He gives confidence.

"I think my best position for Liverpool is middle or right of midfield.

"At training we move all the time, sometimes without the ball, but it is pass and move, pass and move. I'm feeling all right, physically.

Adapted

"I knew Liverpool played the game on the ground and it was wonderful when I came down and went to train. There are very good players here.

"The first month at Dunfermline was a big change for me, the football was very fast compared to Hungary, but after a few months I had adapted. I've never had a problem with the physical side of the game."

He has not had a problem with injuries, either, being free from any of a long-term nature, and he shouldn't have a problem with the genuine soccer-lovers of his adopted city. After all, in 1966 they chanted "Al-bert, Al-bert, Al-bert."

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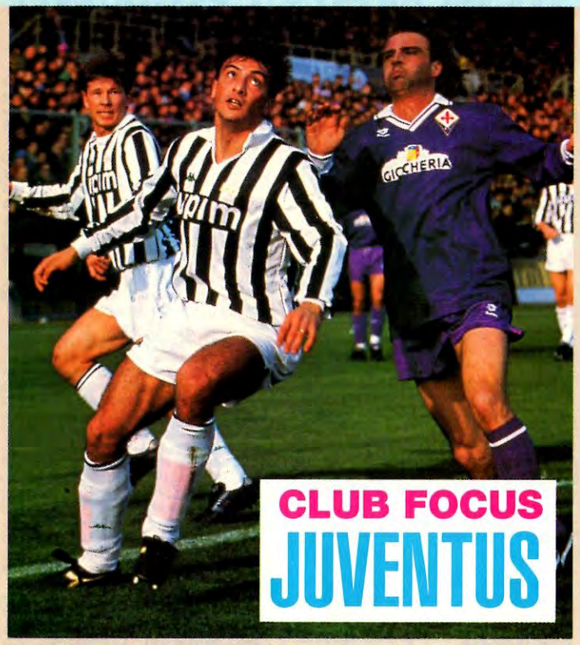

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Pascal Vahirua

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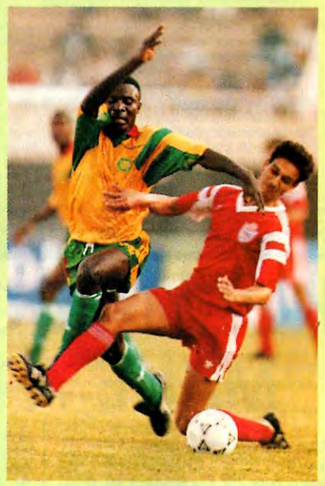

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Results

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: (REST OF WORLD)

EUROPE

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-6
16.10.90	Austria v Liechtenstein	10-0

CONCACAF

2 participants to qualify

Caribbean Zone

1st Round

28.10.90	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-3
12.11.90	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-0
21.10.90	Haiti v Cuba	1-1
28.10.90	Cuba v Haiti	2-2
28.10.90	Aruba v St Lucia	3-3
11.11.90	Aruba v St Lucia	0-9
29.10.90	Antigua v Barbados	0-0
11.11.90	Barbados v Antigua	5-0
21.10.90	Dutch Antilles v Surinam	0-1
04.11.90	Surinam v Dutch Antilles	0-0

2nd Round

17.02.91	Barbados v Surinam	0-0
10.03.91	Surinam v Barbados	2-1
24.02.91	Trin. & Tobago v Jamaica	1-0
03.03.91	Jamaica v Trin. & Tobago	1-0
10.03.91	St Lucia v Haiti	1-1
24.03.91	Haiti v St Lucia	2-1

Central Zone

17.03.91	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2
04.04.91	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
17.03.91	Belize v El Salvador	0-2
24.03.91	El Salvador v Belize	3-0

Panama v Costa Rica*

*= Costa Rica suspended from all FIFA competitions with age limit. Panama qualified for 3rd round.

Caribbean Zone

3rd Round

Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91	Surinam v Mexico	1-1
05.09.91	Honduras v Mexico	1-1
11.09.91	Mexico v Honduras	0-1
16.09.91	Mexico v Surinam	6-0
24.09.91	Honduras v Surinam	2-0
06.10.91	Surinam v Honduras	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Honduras	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	3	4
Surinam	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Honduras & Mexico qualify for 4th Round.

Group B

05.05.91	Canada v Trin. & Tobago	3-0
12.05.91	El Salvador v Canada	3-1
19.05.91	Trin. & Tobago v Canada	1-3
14.07.91	El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago#	2-0
28.07.91	Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
31.08.91	Canada v El Salvador	4-0

#= walkover.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
El Salvador	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	3	8	2

Canada qualify for 4th Round.

Group C

23.06.91	United States v Haiti	8-0
14.07.91	Panama v United States	1-1
20.07.91	United States v Panama	7-1
26.08.91	Haiti v United States	0-2
21.09.91	Panama v Haiti	2-2
30.11.91	Haiti v Panama	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	3	1	0	18	2	7
Panama	3	0	2	1	4	10	2
Haiti	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

United States qualify for 4th Round.

4th Round

25.03.92	Mexico v United States	
05.04.92	Canada v Mexico	
05.04.92	United States v Honduras	
12.04.92	Canada v Honduras	
19.04.92	Honduras v United States	
21.04.92	Mexico v Canada	
26.04.92	United States v Mexico	
26.04.92	Honduras v Canada	
06.05.92	Honduras v Mexico	
10.05.92	United States v Canada	
17.05.92	Mexico v Honduras	
17.05.92	Canada v United States	

ASIA

3 participants to qualify

West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91	Yemen v Pakistan	1-0
	Qatar v Iran	2-0
06.09.91	Iran v UAE	2-2
	Yemen v Qatar	1-1
13.09.91	Pakistan v Qatar	0-4
	UAE v Yemen	2-1
18.09.91	Yemen v Iran	1-1
	Pakistan v UAE	0-1
23.09.91	Qatar v UAE	2-1
	Iran v Pakistan	5-0
28.09.91	Pakistan v Yemen	0-2
	Iran v Qatar	2-0
04.10.91	UAE v Iran	0-1
	Qatar v Yemen	3-0
09.10.91	Qatar v Pakistan	2-0
	Yemen v UAE	0-0
14.10.91	Iran v Yemen	2-1
	UAE v Pakistan	2-0
20.10.91	UAE v Qatar	0-2
	Pakistan v Iran	0-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	8	6	1	1	16	4	13
Iran	8	5	2	1	19	6	12
UAE	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Yemen	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	0	23	0

Group B

(Tournament in Hyderabad, India)

04.08.91	Oman v India	1-1
05.08.91	Lebanon v Syria	0-1
07.08.91	Kuwait v Oman	1-0
09.08.91	Syria v Kuwait	1-1
08.08.91	Lebanon v India	3-1
10.08.91	Oman v Lebanon	1-0
11.08.91	Syria v India	1-0
12.08.91	Lebanon v Kuwait	1-2
13.08.91	Oman v Syria	0-0
14.08.91	Kuwait v India	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kuwait	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Syria	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Oman	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Lebanon	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
India	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Group C

(Tournament in Bahrain)

19.09.91	Bahrain v Sri Lanka	6-0
19.09.91	S. Arabia v Jordan	1-2
22.09.91	Bahrain v Jordan	4-0
23.09.91	Sri Lanka v S. Arabia	1-5
25.09.91	Jordan v Sri Lanka	7-0
	S. Arabia v Bahrain	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	10	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Jordan	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
Sri Lanka	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

East Asia — 1st Round.

Group D

1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91	S Korea v Philippines	10-0
	Bangladesh v Thailand	2-3
20.05.91	Malaysia v Philippines	5-0
	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-6
22.05.91	Bangladesh v Malaysia	0-1
	Thailand v S Korea	1-2
24.05.91	Thailand v Malaysia	4-1
	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-8
26.05.91	Philippines v Thailand	1-7
	S Korea v Malaysia	0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91	Malaysia v Thailand	1-0
	S Korea v Philippines	7-0
01.07.91	S Korea v Malaysia	2-0
	Thailand v Bangladesh	4-0
03.07.91	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-1
	Philippines v Malayasia	0-5
05.07.91	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-3
	Thailand v S Korea	0-2
07.07.91	Thailand v Philippines	6-0
	Malaysia v Bangladesh	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

Group E

1st Leg (N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-12
17.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	0-2
	Nepal v Maldives	0-1
19.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	4-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
21.08.91	Nepal v China	0-4
	Maldives v Singapore	1-1
23.08.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-1

2nd Leg

(China/Beijing)

26.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-17
28.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	1-3
	Nepal v Maldives	2-1
30.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	7-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
01.09.91	Nepal v China	0-10
	Maldives v Singapore	2-4
03.09.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	8	7	1	0	51	1	15
N Korea	8	6	1	1	27	3	13
Singapore	8	3	1	4	14	16	7
Maldives	8	1	1	6	5	47	3
Nepal	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Group F

08.06.91	Hong Kong v Taiwan	1-1
09.06.91	Indonesia v Japan	1-2
16.06.91	Indonesia v Taiwan	2-1
	Hong Kong v Japan	3-1
23.06.91	Indonesia v Hong Kong	0-0
	Taiwan v Japan	0-3
29.06.91	Japan v Taiwan	2-0
30.06.91	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
07.07.91	Japan v Hong Kong	3-0
	Taiwan v Indonesia	3-1
13.07.91	Japan v Indonesia	3-1
14.07.91	Taiwan v Hong Kong	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

2nd Round

(Tournament in Malaysia)

18.01.92	Bahrain v Qatar	0-1
18.01.92	S Korea v Kuwait	1-1
19.01.92	Japan v China	1-2
21.01.92	Bahrain v S Korea	0-1
21.01.92	China v Qatar	0-1
21.01.92	Kuwait v Japan	1-1
24.01.92	Qatar v S Korea	1-0
25.01.92	Kuwait v China	0-1
25.01.92	Japan v Bahrain	6-1
27.01.92	S Korea v Japan	1-0
27.01.92	Bahrain v China	0-3
28.01.92	Qatar v Kuwait	0-3
30.01.92	Japan v Qatar	0-1
30.01.92	China v S Korea	1-3
30.01.92	Kuwait v Bahrain	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	5	4	0	1	4	3	8
S Korea	5	3	1	1	6	3	7
Kuwait	5	2	2	1	8	3	6
China	5	3	0	2	7	5	6
Japan	5	1	1	3	8	6	3
Bahrain	5	0	0	5	1	14	0

Top three qualify for Olympic Games finals in Barcelona.

AFRICA

3 participants to qualify

2nd Round

Group 1

	Mauritius v **Zambia	
10.08.91	Sudan v Egypt	1-2
11.08.91	Mozambique v Uganda	0-1
23.08.91	Egypt v Sudan	2-0
24.08.91	Uganda v Mozambique	3-1
	*Ethiopia v Malawi	
	**Gabon v Cameroon	
	*Angola v Ivory Coast	

Group 2

10.08.91	Tunisia v Senegal	3-1
11.08.91	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.08.91	Morocco v Mauritania	6-0
	Liberia* v Togo	
	Ghana v Guinea**	
11.08.91	Zaire* v Zimbabwe	
23.08.91	Mauritania v Morocco	0-0
24.08.91	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
25.08.91	Senegal v Tunisia	1-0
	Togo v Liberia*	
	Zimbabwe v Zaire*	

3rd Round

Group 1

25.10.91	Egypt v Malawi	3-1
26.10.91	Uganda v Cameroon	1-2
09.11.91	Malawi v Egypt	0-0
10.11.91	Cameroon v Uganda	2-0
	Mauritius v Ivory Coast*	

Egypt, Cameroon & Mauritius qualify for 4th Round.

Group 2

27.10.91	Tunisia v Zimbabwe	3-1
27.10.91	Ghana v Sierra Leone	2-1
09.11.91	Sierra Leone v Ghana	2-2
10.11.91	Zimbabwe v Tunisia	5-2
	Togo* v Morocco	

Zimbabwe, Ghana & Morocco qualify for 4th Round.

4th Round

07.02.92	Egypt v Zimbabwe	3-0
08.02.92	Cameroon v Morocco	0-0
08.02.92	Ghana v Mauritius	6-0
23.02.91	Zimbabwe v Egypt	1-1
23.02.91	Morocco v Cameroon	0-2
23.02.92	Mauritius v Ghana	1-4

*= Withdrew from tournament.
**= Suspended from tournament.

Egypt, Ghana & Cameroon qualify for Olympic Games finals.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 participant to qualify

1st Round

19.05.91	Australia v Papua NG	4-0
22.05.91	Australia v N.Zealand	2-0
26.05.91	Australia v Fiji	7-0
07.11.91	New Zealand v Fiji	4-0
09.11.91	Papua NG v Fiji	0-2
11.11.91	Papua NG v Australia	0-5
13.11.91	N.Zealand v Australia	1-2
15.11.91	Papua NG v N.Zealand	1-3
16.11.91	Fiji v Australia	0-3
18.11.91	N.Zealand v Papua NG	4-2
20.11.91	Fiji v N.Zealand	0-0
22.11.91	Fiji v Papua NG	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Australia	6	6	0	0	23	1	12
New Zealand	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Fiji	6	1	2	3	3	15	3
Papua NG	6	0	1	5	2	19	1

Australia qualify for play-off against fifth-placed European team.

SOUTH AMERICA

2 to qualify

Group A

Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

31.01.92	Paraguay v Venezuela	1-0
01.02.92	Brazil v Peru	2-1
03.02.92	Peru v Colombia	1-4
03.02.92	Brazil v Paraguay	1-0
05.02.92	Peru v Venezuela	3-0
05.02.92	Brazil v Colombia	0-2
07.02.92	Colombia v Venezuela	4-0
07.02.92	Paraguay v Peru	7-1
09.02.92	Paraguay v Colombia	0-0
09.02.92	Brazil v Venezuela	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Colombia	4	3	1	0	10	1	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	2	5
Brazil	4	2	1	1	4	4	5
Peru	4	1	0	3	6	13	2
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Group B

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.

02.02.92	Uruguay v Ecuador	0-2
02.02.92	Argentina v Bolivia	1-0
04.02.92	Uruguay v Chile	1-0
04.02.92	Argentina v Ecuador	1-0
06.02.92	Ecuador v Bolivia	4-1
06.02.92	Argentina v Chile	1-1
08.02.92	Uruguay v Bolivia	4-0
08.02.92	Chile v Ecuador	1-5
10.02.92	Chile v Bolivia	Cancelled
10.02.92	Argentina v Uruguay	1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ecuador	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Argentina	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Chile	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Final Round:

12.02.92	Ecuador v Paraguay	0-1
12.02.92	Colombia v Uruguay	3-0
14.02.92	Ecuador v Uruguay	0-1
14.02.92	Colombia v Paraguay	0-1
16.02.92	Paraguay v Uruguay	0-0
16.02.92	Colombia v Ecuador	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Colombia	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Ecuador	3	0	0	1	1	3	1

Paraguay & Colombia qualify for Olympic Games finals.

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The UEFA Under-21 tournament also doubles as the Olympic qualifying tournament with the exception of Scotland, England, San Marino and Luxembourg who do not take part in the Olympics. Spain qualify as hosts.

Quarter-finals

A Denmark v Poland
B Holland v Sweden
C Germany v Scotland
D Czechoslovakia v Italy

● The four quarter-final winners (along with Spain as hosts) will represent Europe at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. However, if Scotland (who are not eligible for the Olympics) beat Germany, then the team with the best record (points divided by games) from the qualifiers and quarter-finals will qualify. The fifth best-placed European side will play Australia for the remaining place in the finals.

Semi-finals

Winner Match A v Winner Match D
Winner Match C v Winner Match B

● Note, the semi-finals are for the European Under-21 Championship only and do not affect the Olympic Qualifying tournament.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CZECH	8	7	1	0	23	4	15
France	8	3	2	3	7	5	8
Spain	7	3	2	2	6	5	8
Albania	7	1	2	4	3	13	4
Iceland	8	1	1	6	3	15	3

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SCOTLAND	6	5	0	1	13	5	10
Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	6	2	8
Romania	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Switzerland	6	1	0	5	5	13	2

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
ITALY	6	4	1	1	6	8	9
Norway	6	3	1	2	13	5	7
USSR	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Hungary	6	0	1	5	1	8	1

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DENMARK	6	4	2	0	21	4	10
Yugoslavia	6	4	0	2	11	10	8
Austria	6	2	2	2	8	5	6
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	21	0

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GERMANY	4	4	0	0	12	1	8
Belgium	4	2	0	2	5	6	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
HOLLAND	6	4	2	0	20	4	10
Portugal	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	7	13	4
Malta	6	0	0	6	5	22	0

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
POLAND	6	6	0	0	10	2	11
England	6	3	1	2	11	5	7
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	11	3
Rep.Ireland	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SWEDEN	6	4	2	0	17	3	10
Israel	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Greece	6	1	1	4	6	13	3
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	3	15	3

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

*** Note that details of all matches in the finals of the African Nations' Cup were published in the February edition of *WORLD SOCCER*.**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Dec 25 = Tunis — intl friendly
Tunisia 2 (Khaled Ben Sassi 3, Mondher Msakni 42)
Cameroon 2 (Jacob Ewane 51, Thomas Libbih 54)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000.

Dec 25 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 3 (Hossam Hassan, Abdel Hamid, El Kas)
Romania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Dec 26 = Port Said — intl friendly
Egypt 1 (Ramzi 36)
Romania 1 (D Munteanu 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun)
Egypt: Elsashir - Ibrahim Hassan (Ganzi 83), Yakan, Hani Ramzi, Ragab - Azim, Youssef, A Ramzi (Maray 46), El Kas (Sayer 46) - Hossam Hassan (Jed 69), Grisha (Hamid 46).
Romania: Lung (Prunea 46) - Zamfir (Kadar 7), Mihali, Sandoi, M Pana (Dumitrescu 65) - Constantinovici (Cioloboc 81), Raduta, Adrian Popescu, D Munteanu - Hanganu, I Viorel (C Lazar 88).

Dec 26 = Casablanca — intl friendly
Morocco 1 (Raghib 70pen)
Algeria 1 (Bouiche 67pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,500.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Jan 4 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 2 (Ahmed El Kas 8, Ahmed Hani Ramzy 78)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Al Sharif (Syr).
Egypt: Shoubeir - Hani Ramzi (Kasim 65), Ibrahim Hassan, Yakan, Abdel Azir - Abdel Azim, A Ramzi, Hossam Hassan, A Ramzi II - Abdel Hamid (Tolba 65), Yusuf.
Czechoslovakia: Kouba - Globek - Hapal, Suchoparek, Nemec - Bejbl, Moravcik, Kubik, Dubovsky - Pecko (Lancz 25), Kuka.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Jan 5 = Oporto — intl friendly
Zaire 2 (Kona 38, Ngombe 76)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Jan 7 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 0
Norway 0
Att: 20,000.
● This was Egypt's final warm-up before their departure for the finals of the African Nations' Cup in Senegal.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Jan 12 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group A
Senegal 1 Nigeria 2

Jan 12 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group B
Cameroon 1 Morocco 0

CONTINUED OVER

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

Jan 13 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group C
Ivory Coast 3 Algeria 0

Jan 13 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group D
Zambia 1 Egypt 0

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Jan 14 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group A
Kenya 1 Nigeria 2

Jan 14 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group B
Morocco 1 Zaire 1

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Jan 15 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group C
Congo 0 Ivory Coast 0

Jan 15 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group D
Ghana 1 Zambia 0

Jan 15 = Torres Novas — intl friendly
Portugal 0
Spain 0
Att: 11,000. **Ref:** De Pandis (Fra)
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Joao Pinto, Fernando Couto, Rui Bento, Leal - Peixe (Paulo Madeira 73) - Vitor Paneira (Carlos Xavier 46), Oceano (Paulo Bento 73), Joao Vieira Pinto - Cadete (Cesar Brito 61), Futre.
Spain: Zubizarreta (Buyo 46) - Luis Manuel, Sanchis, Giner, Villaroya - Michel (Geli 46), Amor, Hierro, Vizcaino (Nadal 69) - Butragueno (Higuera 10), Manolo (Fernando 69).

● Portugal and Spain have little contact at soccer level and a draw was a diplomatically fair result. Both sides fielded experimental line-ups, though it was Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz who gave more younger players their head. Portugal started brightly but lacked penetration while Spain's attacking effort was disrupted after ten minutes when Butragueno had to go off with a head gash after being stepped on accidentally by Emilio Peixe. Portugal keeper Vitor Baia saved well in the first half from Manolo and Hierro and again in the second half from Hierro.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Jan 16 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group A
Senegal 3 Kenya 0

Jan 16 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group B
Cameroon 1 Zaire 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Jan 17 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group C
Algeria 1 Congo 1

Jan 17 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' Cup Finals, Group D
Egypt 0 Ghana 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Jan 19 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Quarter-finals
Nigeria 1 Zaire 0

Jan 19 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Quarter-finals
Cameroon 1 Senegal 0

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Jan 20 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Quarter-finals
Ivory Coast 1 Zambia 0
(After extra time)

Jan 20 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Quarter-finals
Ghana 2 Congo 1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Jan 23 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Semi-final
Ghana 2 Nigeria 1

Jan 23 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Semi-final
Ivory Coast 0 Cameroon 0
(Aet, Ivory Coast won 3-1 on pens)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Jan 25 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Third Place Play-off
Nigeria 2 (Ekpo pen, Yekini)
Cameroon 1 (Maboang) **HT:** 0-0.

Jan 25 = Miami — intl friendly
United States 0
CIS 1 (Akhrik Tsveiba 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,386. **Ref:** Dominguez (US).
US: Meola - Balboa, Clavijo, Armstrong (Savage 46), Doyle, Michallik (Sorber 78), Quinn, Kinnear, Henderson, Acosta, Wynalda (Lassiter 61).
CIS: Kharin - Chernishov, Chadadze, Tsveiba, Khlestov, Mandreko (Chuginov 60), D Kuznetsov, Piatnitski (Nikiforov 72), Chernishev (Lediakhov 46), Kiriakov, Sergeyev.

● The CIS, extended the old Soviet record against the US with a sixth victory in seven matches (the other was drawn). The US were without convalescent midfielder Hugo Perez while Bruce Murray was suspended after his expulsion against Costa Rica. Substitutes Roy Lassiter and Mike Sorber made their debuts in the second half but by that time the game was going the CIS' way. The best - and last - US chance fell to Marcelo Balboa on the hour with a penalty kick after Mandreko handled a goal-bound header from Dominic Kinnear. Balboa shot his spot-kick straight at Kharin, however, and the CIS took advantage to grab the winner seven minutes later. Clavijo headed out a cross but only as far as Tsveiba who fired back past Meola.

Jan 25 = Sydney — intl friendly
Australia 0
Sweden 0
Att: 13,456. **Ref:** Gary Power (Aus)
Australia: Zabica - Gray, Bernal, Zelic, Tobin, Durakovic (Tony Vidmar 61), Tapai (McCulloch 46), Wade, Spink, Peterson, Van Blark (Edwards 82).
Sweden: Lars Eriksson - Jan Eriksson, Gren, Bjorklund, Dennis Schiller (Erlingmark 83), Rehn, Burwall (Jan Jansson 75), Fjellstrom, Forsth, Ekstrom, Niclas Kindvall (Martinsson 58).

● Sweden gained a draw in the first of a three-match series against their Australian hosts. Manager Tommy Svensson said: "We were lucky not to concede a goal in the second half but I was happy with our performance." Paul Wade, Australia's captain, shot their best chance wide in the 47th minute. Sweden were, of course, on tour without their foreign-based players.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Jan 26 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup Final
Ghana 0
Ivory Coast 0
Att: 47,500.
(Aet, Ivory Coast won 11-10 on pens)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Jan 29 = Adelaide — intl friendly
Australia 1 (Alastair Edwards 77)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,301.
Australia: Zabica - Blagojevic, Bernal (Durakovic 57), Zelic, Tobin, Tony Vidmar, McCulloch, Wade, Milosevic (Peterson 71), Mazwell, Van Blerk (Edwards 68).
Sweden: Fedel - Jan Eriksson, Gren, Bjorklund, Peter Larsson, Patrick Andersson - Rehn, Mild (Ekstrom 76), Erlingmark (Burwall 76), Martinsson, Jan Jansson.

● Substitute striker Edwards scored 13 minutes from time. The first half was a dull affair with Paul Wade heading wide at one end and Magnus Erlingmark heading just over the top at the other. Australia stepped up the pace after the arrivals of substitutes Peterson and Edwards and the latter, a former Rangers and Brighton trialist, shot the decisive goal past debutant Sweden keeper Jonnie Fedel. Two minutes from the end Sweden might have equalised but Jansson, put in by Ekstrom, failed to connect with an attempted volley. Sweden manager Svensson said: "I was pleased with the way we played again, but disappointed with the result." Aussie manager Eddie Thomson said: "The Swedes exposed a few flaws and it wasn't really our night but we got away with it."

Jan 29 = San Salvador — intl friendly
El Salvador 0
CIS 3 (Chernishev 8, 22, Khlestov 65)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,000.
El Salvador: C Rivera - Abrego, Trigueros, Meza, N Rivera - Gamez, menjivar, Lazo, Diaz - Magico Gonzalez, Coreas.
CIS: Kharin - Chernishov, Tsveiba, Chadade, Khlestov, Mandreko, Piatnitski, Chernishev, Kiriakov, Sergeyev, Lediakov.

● CIS federation president Viacheslav Koloskov used the occasion to announce his invitation for UEFA president Lennart Johansson to visit Moscow for a demonstration of how the ex-Soviet soccer situation had been "regularised." El Salvador were no match for the CIS out on the pitch. That was hardly surprising, considering national manager Jorge Aude had been sacked on the eve of the game.

Jan 29 = Qemal Stafa, Tirana — intl friendly
Albania 1 (Rakli 41)
Greece 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Bujar Pregja (Alb)
Albania: Strakosha - Pequni, Cipi (Pali), Xhumba, Daja, Milori, Vasi, Kola (Gjondeda), Ierko, Abazi, Rakli.
Greece: Shaniotakis (Karavas 46) - Pospalidis, Kapuranis, Pavlopulos, Mistopulos, Uzunidis (Papadopulos), Giukudis (Marku), Shionas, A Karasavidis, Aristidis, Marinakis (Theofilos Karasavidis), Giotsas.

● Albania won what they claimed to be their 100th official international thanks to a goal just before half-time. For this match Albania recalled a number of their Greece-based players, despite objections from the clubs involved.

Jan 29 = Al Shabab, Dubai — intl friendly
United Arab Emirates 0
Switzerland 2 (Beat Sutter 7, Christoph Bonvin 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Ebrahim Al Amach (UAE)
UAE: Yomad - Rahman Mohammed (Duieck 75) - Ahmed Ibrahim (Jomaa 53), Hussein (Rashid Ismail 75), Mir - Muhammed Abdullah (Garib 46), Naser Khamis (Mohammed Ismail 68), Razak Ibrahim (Said 80), Ismail Khaled (Omar Ismail 46) - Bekhit (Yohar 68), Al Taliani (Kholdum 46).
Switzerland: Pascolo - Hottiger, Herr, Egli (Schepull 78), Sauthier (Ohrel 68) - Beat Sutter (Piffaretti 68), Geiger, Sforza (Bickel 87), Alain Sutter - Bonvin (Dietlein 78), Chapuisat.

● Switzerland had few problems overcoming their hosts in a match which grew increasingly scrappy as more and more substitutes entered the action on both sides.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Feb 2 = Pontiac Silverdome, Michigan — intl friendly
United States 2 (Eric Wynalda 3, Marcelo Balboa 75pen)
CIS 1 (Oleg Sergeyev 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,248. **Ref:** D'Aquila (US)
US: Meola - Balboa, Michallik (Savage 84), Armstrong, Doyle, Quinn, Kinnear, Henderson, Murray, Acosta (Sorber 72), Wynalda (Benedict 87).
CIS: Kleimenov - Chernishov, Chadadze, Tetradze, Khlestov (Nikiforov 15), Mandreko, D Kuznetsov (Shustikov 74), Piatnitski (Chugainov 75), Sergeyev, Lediakov, Kiriakov (Cherishev 77).

● The Americans recorded their first victory over a CIS/ex-Soviet side after Marcelo Balboa made amends for his penalty miss in the teams' first match a week earlier. This was a full international played indoors at the one of the two domes being considered for the World Cup finals. Eric Wynalda headed the US into the lead after only three minutes when he converted a Dominic Kinnear free kick. But the CIS equalised when Lediakov split the US defence and Sergeyev slipped his shot beyond Meola. A generally even match was decided 15 minutes from time when sweeper Balboa fired home from the spot. Keeper Kleimenov got his fingers to the ball but sheer power carried it on into the net. US coach Bora Milutinovic said: "We put in an excellent effort. If you work hard, you earn the breaks. That is what we must always do." Keeper Meola said: "We're starting to show people that we have a decent squad. We are getting good results and the soccer world is starting to notice that we are no longer pushovers. By no means do we think we're great, but we do feel strongly that we have the potential."

Feb 2 = Melbourne — intl friendly
Australia 1 (Paul Wade 66)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** John Fraser (Aus)
Australia: Zabica - Durkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Gray - Wade, McCulloch (Tapai 60), Petersen (Zelic 55), Tony Vidmar (Van Blerk 46) - Trimboli, Edwards.
Sweden: Lars Eriksson - Mikael Nilsson, Jan Eriksson, Erlingmark, Fursth - Rehn, Patrik Andersson (Burwall 80), Fjellstrom (Mild 68), Rodlund - Ekstrom, Jan Jansson.

● Sweden ended their tour with a second successive defeat - to the delight of the 13,000 Socceroo supporters.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Feb 4 = National Stadium, Prospect — intl friendly
Bermuda 1 (Shawn Goater 28)
Norway 3 (Yvvind Leonhardsen 31, 56, 74)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Rex Osborne (Ber)
Bermuda: Adams - Caisey, Stevens, Shawn Smith, Jennings - Wade, Albert Smith, Astwood (Robinson 74) - Bascome (Warren 66), Lightbourne (Swan 66), Goater.
Norway: Grodas - Tore Pedersen, Ahlsen, Ulf Karlsen, Bjornebye - Ingebrigtsen (Skogheim 75), Jan Ove Pedersen (Erik Pedersen 61), Leonhardsen - Johnsen, Mykland, Strandli.

● Leonhardsen, profiting perhaps from his mid-winter trial with the full-time professionals of Manchester City in England, dominated the match with his winning hat-trick after Bermuda had taken an early, short-lived lead.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Feb 12 = San Jose — intl friendly
Costa Rica 0
United States 0
Att: 22,000. **Ref:** Badilla (CR).
Costa Rica: Hidalgo - Quesada, Gonzalez, Montero, R Chacon (Marchena 46), Guillen (Rowe 85), Guthrie (L Flores 55), Morales (Gomez 74), Berry, Diaz, Coronado (Meyers 55).
US: Dodd - Ibsen, Kmosko, Balboa, DeBrito, Benedict (Juaguande 55), Perez (Chung 59), Quinn, Sorber, Strouse, Acosta (Hueinovic 88).

● US coach Bora Milutinovic provided six players with their international debuts and was rewarded for his initiative with a goalless draw. Keepers Jorge Hidalgo and Mark Dodd were the outstanding players on either side in a lively match. The best US chance went begging in the third minute when Acosta lost his nerve after finding only Hidalgo to beat. A 30-yard drive from Enrique Diaz was the closest Costa Rica came to a goal - Dodd making a spectacular save at the expense of a corner.

OTHER MATCHES

Jan 16: Hamburg 3, El Salvador 1 (Los Angeles).
Jan 17: Uruguay O/U 3, US O/U 2.
Jan 19: Brazil O/U 0, Argentina O/U 1.
Jan 22 (Aracaju): **Brazil O/U 3** (Elivelton 37, 44, 74), **United States O/U 0.** (San Jose): **Costa Rica 1, Hamburg 1.**
Feb 11 (Loule, Algarve): **Portugal U23/ Olympic XI 1** (Roche 56), **US U23/O 1** (Snow 68).

Prince Polley Opoku (on the ground) scores Ghana's winner against Nigeria in the African Nations' Cup.

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING, SUNDAY, JAN 8

BELGIUM

Cup — Quarter-final
Antwerp 1, Tienen 0

Weekend
Anderlecht 6 (Nilis 1, Crasson 23, Bosman 38, 61, 79, Boffin 46), **Kortrijk 0.**
Att: 15,000.
Beveren 1 (Van Ham 45), **Molenbeek 1** (Osondu 48). **Att:** 6,000.
FC Liege 2 (Varga 61, 72), **Cercle Brugge 2** (De Buyser 66, Lamaire 79). **Att:** 6,000.
Lierse 1 (Van Kerckhoven 21), **Gent 0.**
Att: 5,000.
Ekeren 2 (Herreman 5, Hofmans 8),
Charleroi 2 (Janevski pen 33, Suray 86).
Att: 2,000.
Lokeren 1 (Talbi 87), **Mechelen 4** (Ingesson 8, 27, 34, Deferm 58). **Att:** 6,000.
Club Brugge 0, Standard 0. Att: 18,000.
Aalst 0, Antwerp 3 (Czerniatynski 14, Jakovljevic 86, Claesen 88). **Att:** 6,000.
Waregem 2 (Hermans 21, Teppers 47),
Genk 2 (Niederbacher 40, Gjurev pen 49).
Att: 3,000.

ENGLAND

FA Cup
Third Round
Crewe Alexandra 0, Liverpool 4

League Cup
Quarter-finals
Tottenham 2, Norwich City 1
Crystal Palace 1, Nottingham Forest 1
Peterborough 0, Middlesbrough 0
Leeds United 1, Manchester United 3

Weekend
Arsenal 0, Aston Villa 0. Att: 31,413.
Chelsea 2 (Allen 12, Wise 70), **Tottenham Hotspur 0. Att:** 28,628.
Coventry City 2 (Gallacher 9, Rosario 66), **QPR 2** (Penrice 76, 84). **Att:** 11,999.
Crystal Palace 1 (Bright 43), **Manchester City 1** (Curle pen 79). **Att:** 14,766.
Liverpool 2 (McManaman 85, Saunders 90), **Luton Town 1** (Tanner o.g. 31).
Att: 35,095.
Manchester United 1 (Kanchelskis 56), **Everton 0. Att:** 46,619.
Norwich City 1 (Beckford 38), **Oldham Athletic 2** (Holden 45, Bernard 65).
Att: 10,986.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Black 3), **Notts County 1** (Dryden 52). **Att:** 30,168.
Southampton 2 (Le Tissier 3, Hall 59), **Sheffield United 4** (Ward 12, Lake 58, 83, Marwood 68). **Att:** 13,689.
West Ham 1 (Morley 88), **Wimbledon 1** (Sanchez 52). **Att:** 18,485.
Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Sheridan pen 39), **Leeds United 6** (Chapman 8, 43, 66, Dorigo 32, Whitlow 68, Wallace 86).
Att: 32,228.

GREECE

Korinthos 3, Heraklis 1
Olympiakos 3, PAOK 2
Panachaiki 3, Larissa 2
Panathinaikos 1, Apollon 2
OFI Crete 1, Pierikos 1
AEK Athens 2, Serres 1
Panionios 1, Athinaikos 0
Aris Salonika 2, Xanthi 0
Doxa Drama 1, Ethnikos 1

HOLLAND

Weekend
MVV 1 (Visser 8), **Ajax 4** (Winter 23, Bergkamp 25, 55, Davids 88). **Att:** 9,500.
PSV 4 (Romario 8, 90, Kieft 67, Hoekstra 75), **Sparta 1** (Gerard de Nooijer 15).
Att: 23,600.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Willem 3 (Van Gastel 35, Stewart 70, Van Geel 77). **Att:** 1,500.
Vitesse 6 (Hilgers 29, Van der Brom pen 33, pen 60, Latuheru 72, 86, Vermeulen 81),
VVV 1 (Van Leenders 45). **Att:** 4,065.
FC Volendam 3 (De Freitas 4, Kromheer 35, Clayton 50), **Roda JC 2** (Hanssen 62, Verhagen 76). **Att:** 2,800.
Feyenoord 3 (Van Gobbel 10, Otto 68 o.g., 75 o.g.), **FC Den Haag 0. Att:** 14,111.
RKC 4 (Hoekstra 45, Decheiver 58, 63, Beerens 89), **FC Twente 1** (Mulder 48).
Att: 2,500.
FC Groningen 2 (Meijer 18, Holband 76),
Fortuna Sittard 1 (Anton Janssen 22).
Att: 13,377.
De Graafschap 0, FC Utrecht 0
Att: 5,187.

ITALY

Weekend
Cagliari 1 (Firicano 30), **Juventus 1** (Baggio 26). **Att:** 35,000.
Foggia 1 (Petrescu 42), **Genoa 0.**
Att: 20,000.
Internazionale 1 (Klinsmann 87), **Bari 0.**
Att: 30,000.
Napoli 1 (Crippa 51), **Fiorentina 0.**
Att: 65,000.
Parma 2 (Melli 55, Minotti 59), **Ascoli 0.**
Att: 17,000.
AS Roma 3 (Voller 9, 66, Aldair 73),
Cremonese 0. Att: 46,000.
Sampdoria 1 (Vialli 6), **Lazio 0.**
Att: 30,000.
Torino 1 (Policano 45), **Atalanta 1** (Piovanelli 82). **Att:** 25,000.
Verona 0, AC Milan 1 (Icardi 31).
Att: 37,330.

PORTUGAL

Farense 0, FC Porto 0

SCOTLAND

Midweek
Dunfermline v Airdrie — postponed
Motherwell v Aberdeen — postponed
St Johnstone 2 (Arkins 67, Wright 84),
Celtic 4 (McStay 28, Gillespie 76, Coyne 79, Collins 81). **Att:** 10,000.

Weekend
Dundee United 2 (Ferreyra 81, Jackson 88), **Airdrie 1** (Kirkwood 84). **Att:** 6,056.
Dunfermline 1 (Leitch 6), **Falkirk 0.**
Att: 5,238.
Hearts 0, Aberdeen 4 (Jess 39, 70, Levein 51 o.g., Mason 65). **Att:** 16,291.
Motherwell 0, Celtic 0. Att: 12,115.
Rangers 2 (Gordon 17, McCoist 88),
Hibernian 0. Att: 40,616.
St Mirren 1 (Broddle 6), **St Johnstone 5** (Wright 13,Curran 24, 29, Arkins 39, Elliot 83 o.g.). **Att:** 2,994.

SPAIN

Cup — Fifth Round, 1st leg
Valencia 2, Barcelona 0
Real Madrid 4, Burgos 0
Oviedo 1, Atletico Madrid 0
Benidorm 1, Sporting Gijon 1
Murcia 1, Sevilla 1
Real Betis 1, Athletic Bilbao 1
Osasuna 3, La Coruna 2
Castellon 2, Logrones 0

Weekend
Mallorca 1 (Fradera 37), **Espanol 0.**
Att: 13,000.
Burgos 0, Real Sociedad 1 (Kodro 33).
Att: 9,000.
Albacete 1 (Aquino 71), **Zaragoza 1** (Higuera 11). **Att:** 15,000.
La Coruna 0, Oviedo 0. Att: 22,000.
Logrones 1 (Garcia Pitarch 82), **Atletico Madrid 0. Att:** 10,000.
Real Madrid 5 (Butragueno 10, Hagi 32, 60,Maqueda 59, Alfonso 84), **Osasuna 2** (Cholo 43, Merino 67). **Att:** 70,000.
Sporting Gijon 0, Valencia 3 (Tomas 25, Penev 60, 63). **Att:** 15,000.
Sevilla 4 (Suker 2, Andrades 23, Zamorano 57, 61), **Tenerife 1** (Pizzi 74). **Att:** 40,000.
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Valverde 8, Ciganda 34, 56), **Cadiz 2** (Arteaga 86). **Att:** 30,000.
Barcelona 2 (Julio Salinas 26, 52),
Valladolid 1 (Vicente 59). **Att:** 65,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JAN 19

BELGIUM

Weekend
Mechelen 1 (Severeyns 52), **Ekeren 1** (Hofmans 89). **Att:** 7,600.
Anderlecht 0, Genk 2 (Fieber 73, Goots 75). **Att:** 15,000.
Antwerp 2 (Jakovievic 64, Czerniatynski 89), **Lierse 1** (Segers 75). **Att:** 6,000.
Gent 1 (Viscaal 64), **Club Brugge 1** (Amokachi 74), **Att:** 14,000.
Charleroi 1 (Brogno 68), **Beveren 0.**
Att: 10,000.
Standard 1 (Bettagno 14,), **FC Liege 0.**
Att: 20,000.
Molenbeek 2 (Kepa 15, 83), **Waregem 0.**
Att: 4,000.
Kortrijk 2 (Edelmann 16, Vidmar 58), **Aalst 1** (Krohm 49). **Att:** 3,000.
Cercle Brugge 5 (De Buyser 23, Weber 35, 83, 89, Karacic 77), **Lokeren 0.**
Att: 3,000.

ENGLAND

FA Cup — Third Round
Leeds United 0, Manchester United 1

Third Round Replays
Tottenham Hotspur 0, Aston Villa 1
Cambridge United 1, Coventry City 0
Derby County v Burnley — Abandoned
Hereford United 2, Woking 1
Newcastle v Bournemouth — Abandoned
West Ham United 1, Farnborough 0
Wimbledon 0, Bristol City 1
Hartlepool 0, Ipswich Town 2
Leyton Orient 4, Oldham A 2

Weekend
Aston Villa 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Jemson 78). **Att:** 28,036.
Leeds United 1 (Fairclough 32), **Crystal Palace 1** (Thomas 17). **Att:** 27,717.
Luton Town 0, West Ham United 1 (Small 69). **Att:** 11,088.
Manchester City 1 (White 51), **Coventry City 0. Att:** 23,005.
Notts County 1 (Johnson pen 10),
Manchester United 1 (Blackmore pen 70).
Att: 21,055.
Oldham Athletic 2 (Adams 4, Bernard 86),
Liverpool 3 (McManaman 17, Saunders 42, Thomas 73). **Att:** 18,952.
QPR 0, Arsenal 0. Att: 20,497.
Sheffield United 1 (Bryson 75),
Norwich City 0. Att: 17,549.
Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Mabbutt 82),
Southampton 2 (Adams 24, Dowie 80).
Att: 23,191.
Wimbledon 1 (Earle 74), **Chelsea 2** (Townsend 41, Allen 73). **Att:** 8,413.
Everton 1 (Watson 85), **Nottingham Forest 1** (Gemmill 37). **Att:** 17,717.

FRANCE

Weekend
Toulouse 2 (Ferrer 50, Pavon 59),
Auxerre 3 (Mazzolini 15, Baticle 57, Dutuel 70 pen). **Att:** 9,159.
Caen 1 (Gravelaine 20), **Lyon 0.**
Att: 6,648.
Toulon 4 (Rodriguez 9 pen, 39 pen, 65 pen, 82 pen), **Nancy 2** (Zitelli 21, pen 88).
Att: 3,000.
Metz 1 (Calderaro 7), **Nantes 1** (Ouedec 82). **Att:** 10,656.
Rennes 0, Montpellier 2 (Ziober 59, 88).
Att: 7,005.
Paris SG 3 (Perez 15, Simba 19, Kombouare 77), **Cannes 2** (Ricardo o.g. 16, Zidane 64). **Att:** 20,000.
Lille 1 (Assadourian 65), **Monaco 2** (Rui Barros 41, Weah 61). **Att:** 7,000.
Sochaux 0, Le Havre 0. Att: 1,500.
Nimes 1 (Cuciuffo 26), **Marseille 2** (Papin 58, Xuereb 82). **Att:** 23,015.
St Etienne 0, Lens 4 (Francois 30, Sikora pen 40, Boli 62, Tikva 83). **Att:** 11,765.

GREECE

Olympiakos 0, Korinthos 0
Heraklis 4, Panachaiki 0
PAOK 1, Panathinaikos 0
Larissa 1, OFI Crete 0
Apollon 0, AEK Athens 2
Pierikos 2, Panionios 0
Serres 1, Aris Salonika 0
Athinaikos 2, Doxa Drama 1
Xanthi 1, Ethnikos 0

HOLLAND

Weekend
Roda JC 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 10,000.
Fortuna Sittard 3 (Sneekes 38, Anton Janssen 48, Duut pen 88),
De Graafschap 1 (Godee 31). **Att:** 2,500.
VVV 0, FC Volendam 1 (Steur 47).
Att: 3,100.
Willem II 0, FC Utrecht 1 (De Kock 15).
Att: 4,000.
FC Twente 4 (Leurink 50, Mulder 52, Gaasbeek 66, 69), **FC Groningen 1** (Wilson 79). **Att:** 4,800.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Vitesse 1 (Hilgers 61).
Att: 1,200.
Sparta 2 (Vurens 1, 34 pen), **RKC 3** (Decheiver 12, 38, Hoekstra 56). **Att:** 2,000.
Ajax 1 (Pettersson pen 73), **PSV 0.**
Att: 48,000.
FC Den Haag 1 (Valk 37), **MVV 2** (Visser 60, Bucan 75). **Att:** 2,000.

ITALY

Weekend
Ascoli 0, Torino 4 (Lentini 8, 29, Policano 47, Bresciani 81). **Att:** 8,000.
Atalanta 1 (Bianchezi pen 29),
Internazionale 0. Att: 22,500.
Bari 2 (Platt 68, 88), **AS Roma 1** (Voller 16). **Att:** 34,900.
Cremonese 0, Sampdoria 1 (Lombardo 7). **Att:** 9,200.
Fiorentina 1 (Apolloni 1 o.g.), **Parma 1** (Grun 48). **Att:** 26,900.
Genoa 3 (Skuhravy 30, 58, 89), **Napoli 4** (Zola 13, Silenzi 29, Careca 39, Alemao 84). **Att:** 39,000.
Juventus 2 (Pellegrini 22 o.g., Schillaci 65), **Verona 0. Att:** 35,000.
Lazio 2 (Doll 4, Ruben Sosa 48), **Cagliari 1** (Napoli 58). **Att:** 25,000.
AC Milan 3 (Van Basten pen 10, 47, pen 85), **Foggia 1** (Shalimov 64). **Att:** 75,000.

PORTUGAL

Penafiel 1, Uniao Madeira 1
Salgueiros 1, Beira Mar 1
Boavista Porto 1, Benfica 0
Gil Vicente 2, Sp. Braga 3
Vit Guimares 1, Famalicao 1
Sp. Lisbon 0, FC Porto 2
Estoril 1, Chaves 1
Torriense 2, Pacos de Ferreira 0
Maritimo 1, Farense 1

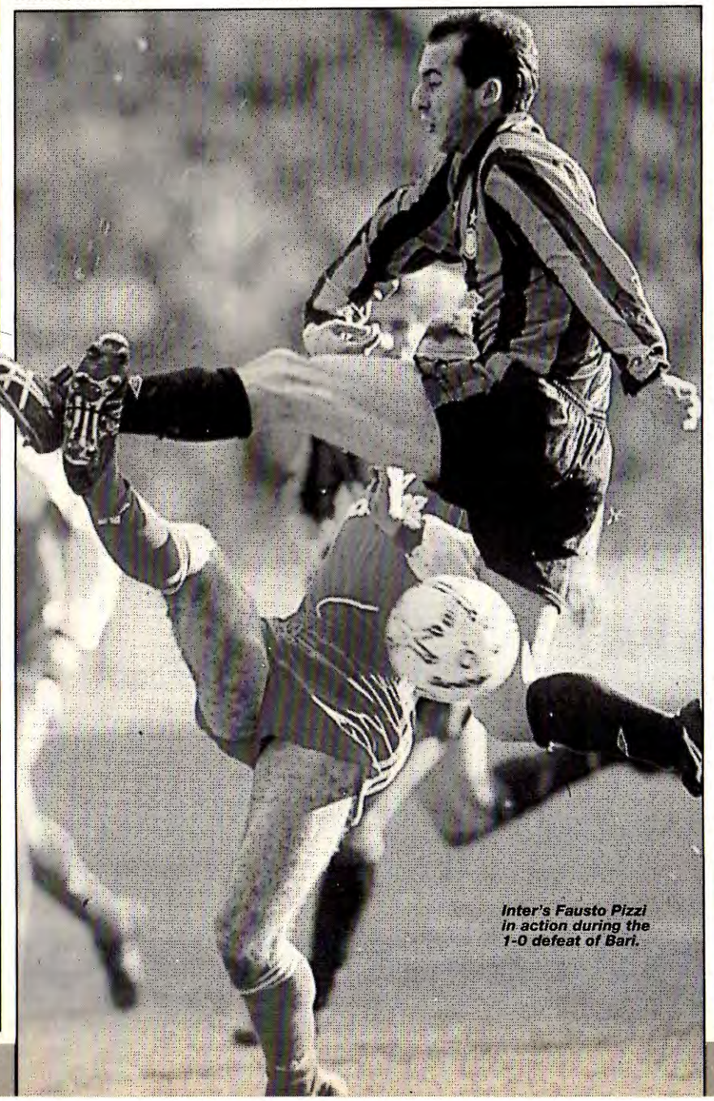
SCOTLAND

Midweek
Motherwell 3 (Kirk 4, Nijholt pen 30, O'Donnell 69), **Aberdeen 3** (Kane 33, Jess 54, Roddie 81). **Att:** 5,221.
Dunfermline 0, Airdrie 0. Att: 3,429.

Weekend
Airdrie 2 (Lawrence 18, 19), **Hearts 1** (Robertson 68). **Att:** 7,000.
Dundee United 1 (McInally 76), **St Mirren 3** (Torfasson 14, pen 32, Charnley 76).
Att: 4,933.
Dunfermline 0, Celtic 1 (Coyne 24).
Att: 9,863.
Falkirk 2 (Grant o.g. 14, Cadette 38),
Aberdeen 2 (M ason 64, Booth 78).
Att: 5,334.
Hibernian 0, St Johnstone 1 (Arkins 83).
Att: 7,122.
Rangers 2 (McCoist 39, Mikhailichenko 86), **Motherwell 0. Att:** 38,127.

SPAIN

Weekend
Barcelona 4 (Beguiristain 10, Laudrup 24, Stoichkov 45, Koeman 83), **Espanol 3** (Korneev 46, pen 48, Luis 89). **Att:** 70,000.
Real Sociedad 1 (Carlos Xavier 26),
Mallorca 0. Att: 14,000.


Inter's Fausto Pizzi in action during the 1-0 defeat of Bari.

CONTINUED OVER

Zaragoza 1 (Pardeza 66), **Burgos 0.** **Att:** 22,000.
Oviedo 0, Albacete 1 (Chesa 19). **Att:** 14,902.
Atletico Madrid 1 (Vizcaino 86), **La Coruna 2** (Mujica 49, Villa 74). **Att:** 12,000.
Osasuna 3 (Urban 1, Cholo 5, 65),
Logrones 0. Att: 16,000.
Valencia 2 (Fernando 87, Roberto 89), **Real Madrid 1** (Michel pen 73).
Att: 48,000.
Tenerife 0, Sporting Gijon 0. Att: 20,000.
Cadiz 1 (Fali 89), **Sevilla 1** (Cortijo 19). **Att:** 17,000.
Valladolid 1 (Fonseca 84), **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Garitano pen 89). **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JAN 26

BELGIUM

Weekend
Lokeren 1 (Meszaros 2), **Standard 1** (Vos 61). **Att:** 3,000.
Lierse 2 (Rekdal 21, Etim 75), **Kortrijk 1** (Ariano 56). **Att:** 3,500.
Beveren 3 (Soudan 26, Van Vossen 38, Bogaerts 78), **Mechelen 1** (Eijkelkamp 87). **Att:** 3,000.
FC Liege 0, Gent 2 (Van der Linden 48, Viscaal pen 88). **Att:** 4,000.
Aalst 0, Anderlecht 4 (Nilis 27, 78, Bosman 64, Oliveira 69. **Att:** 8,000.
Waregem 0, Charleroi 1 (Mommens 82). **Att:** 3,000.
Ekeren 1 (Tahamata 61), **Cercle Brugge 0.** **Att:** 2,800.
Club Brugge 0, Antwerp 0. Att: 11,000.
Molenbeek 4 (Kepa 20, Van Ankeren 35, Van den Buys 80, Van Veldhoven 88),
Genk 0. Att: 5,000.

ENGLAND

Midweek
League Cup — Fifth Round
Nottm Forest v C Palace — Postponed
Middlesboro v Peterboro — Postponed

FA Cup — Third Round Replays
Newcastle United 2, Bournemouth 2
Bournemouth win on penalties
Derby County 2, Burnley 0

Weekend
FA Cup — Fourth Round
Bolton Wanderers 2, Brighton 1
Portsmouth 2, Leyton Orient 0
Sheff Wed v Middlesboro — Postponed
Oxford Utd v Sunderland — Postponed
Leicester City 1, Bristol City 2
Norwich City v Millwall — Postponed
West Ham United 2, Wrexham 2
Notts County v Blackburn — Postponed
Ipswich v Bournemouth — Postponed
Bristol Rovers v Liverpool — Postponed
Cambridge United 0, Swindon Town 3
Charlton Athletic 0, Sheffield United 0
Chelsea 1, Everton 0
Nottingham Forest 2, Hereford United 0

League
Tottenham Hotspur 0, Oldham Athletic 0. Att: 20,843.
Crystal Palace v Luton — Postponed
Manchester United 1 (Hughes 48),
Aston Villa 0. Att: 45,022.

FRANCE

Weekend
Le Havre 0, Caen 1 (Rio 77). **Att:** 9,075.
Montpellier 1, Metz 0 (Laurey 33).
Att: 8,000.
Monaco 2 (Puel 44, Djorkaeff pen 83),
Sochaux 0. Att: 2,000.
Lens 0, Rennes 0. Att: 8,000.
Auxerre 2 (Cocard 39, Baticle 47), **St Etienne 0. Att:** 6,000.
Nantes 1 (Loko 26), **Toulouse 1** (Ferrer pen 86). **Att:** 7,000.
Lyon 1 (Rivenet 31), **Lille 0. Att:** 12,638.
Nancy 0, Paris SG 0. Att: 5,000.
Cannes 0, Nimes 0. Att: 3,000.
Marseille 0, Toulon 1 (Blanc 20).
Att: 25,000.

GREECE

Korinthos 1, Panachaiki 0
Panathinaikos 3, Olympiakos 0
OFI Crete 1, Heraklis 0
AEK Athens 3, PAOK 1
Panionios 1, Larissa 0
Aris Salonika 1, Apollon 0
Doxa Drama 1, Pierikos 2
Ethnikos 2, Serres 2
Xanthi 1, Athinaikos 1

HOLLAND

Weekend
MVV 0, Roda JC 2 (Arnold 45, Rene Hofman 89). **Att:** 7,000.
PSV 2 (Romario 2, 31), **FC Den Haag 1** (Houtman 13). **Att:** 22,350.
Volendam v SVV/Dordrecht — Postponed
Feyenoord 5 (Blinder 8, Bosz 57, Sabau pen 59, 84, Kiprich pen 79), **VVV 1** (Vanderbroeck 21). **Att:** 12,457.
RKC 2 (Nascimento 75, Luhukay 89),
Ajax 2 (Bergkamp 10, Pettersson 45).
Att: 7,000.
FC Groningen v Sparta — Postponed
De Graafschap 0, FC Twente 0.
Att: 6,230.
FC Utrecht 1 (Liesdek 45), **Fortuna Sittard 1** (Boogers 88). **Att:** 5,500.
Vitesse 3 (Hilgers 12, Latuheru 41, Van der.Brom pen 89), **Willem II 1** (Vincent 60).
Att: 4,731.

ITALY

Weekend
AC Milan 4 (Simone 7, Maldini 35, Rijkaard 61, Albertini 69), **Ascoli 1** (D'Ainzara 47).
Att: 59,500.
Torino 1 (Cravero 86), **Bari 0. Att:** 29,800.
Sampdoria 1 (Katanec 55), **Cagliari 1** (Napoli 22). **Att:** 30,000.
Cremonese 2 (Dezotti 38, 46), **Genoa 1** (Skuhravy 65). **Att:** 11,000.
Foggia 2 (Balano pen 83, Petrescu 86),
Internazionale 2 (Matthaus 31, Klinsmann 53). **Att:** 24,000.
Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 8, Branca 90),
Juventus 0. Att: 41,000.
Parma 1 (Brolin 42), **Lazio 0. Att:** 22,000.
Atalanta 1 (Bianchezi pen 68), **Napoli 1** (Silenzi 16). **Att:** 30,000.
AS Roma 1 (Carnevale 35), **Verona 0.** **Att:** 43,500.

Levein of Hearts in action against Rideout of Rangers.

PORTUGAL

Farense 4, Penafiel 1
Uniao Madeira 2, Salgueiros 1
Beira-Mar 2, Boavista 1
Benfica 5, Gil Vicente 0
Sp. Braga 2, Vit. Guimares 1
Farmalicao 0, Sp. Lisbon 0
FC Porto 5, Estoril 0
Chaves 4, Torriense 1
Pacos de Ferreira 2, Maritimo 1

SCOTLAND

Cup — Third Round
Aberdeen 0, Rangers 1
Forfar Athletic 0, Dunfermline A 0
Celtic 6, Montrose 0
Airdrie 2, Stranraer 1
Ayr United 1, Motherwell 1
Dundee v Stirling Albion — Postponed
Clydebank 3, Cowdenbeath 1
Meadowbank Thistle 1, Kilmarnock 1
Hibernian 2, Partick Thistle 0
St Mirren 0, Hearts 0
Hamilton Academical 0, Falkirk 1
Dumbarton 0, Huntly 2
Raith Rovers 0, St Johnstone 2
Caledonian 3, Clyde 1
Morton 4, East Fife 2
Dundee United 6, Berwick Rangers 0

SPAIN

Cup — Fifth Round, 2nd leg
(First leg scores in brackets)
Barcelona 4 v 2 Valencia (0-2)
Valencia won on penalties
Burgos 2 v 2 Real Madrid (0-4)
Athletic Bilbao 2 v 0 Real Betis (1-1)
Logrones 6 v 1 Castellon (0-2)
Atletico Madrid 5 v 0 Oviedo (0-1)
La Coruna 1 v 0 Osasuna (2-3)
La Coruna won on penalties
Sevilla 1 v 0 Murcia (1-1)
Gijon 2 v 0 Benidorm (1-1)

Weekend
Espanol 2 (Luis 7, Korneev 69), **Real Sociedad 0. Att:** 28,000.
Mallorca 0, Zaragoza 1 (Mateut 5).
Att: 9,000.
Burgos 1 (Loren 71), **Oviedo 0.**
Att: 10,000.
Albacete 3 (Catali 38, Menendez 67, Julio Soler 80), **Atletico Madrid 1** (Manolo 75).
Att: 15,000.
La Coruna 0, Osasuna 0. Att: 20,000.
Logrones 0, Valencia 0. Att: 14,500.
Real Madrid 2 (Michel 7, 50 pen),
Tenerife 1 (Chano 27). **Att:** 60,000.
Sporting Gijon 2 (Oscar 1, Luhovy 83),
Cadiz 1 (Kiko 56). **Att:** 17,500.
Sevilla 2 (Rafa Paz 48, Martagon 79),
Valladolid 1 (Pachi 88). **Att:** 40,000.
Athletic Bilbao 0, Barcelona 2 (Bakero 40, 53). **Att:** 40,000.

Action from Nottingham Forest's 2-0 victory against Hereford in the FA Cup.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEB 2

BELGIUM

Weekend
Mehelen 0, Waregem 0. Att: 4,500.
Charleroi v Molenbeek — Postponed
Genk 0, Aalst 0. Att: 3,500.
Anderlecht 0, Lierse 0. Att: 14,500.
Antwerp v FC Liege — Postponed
Gent 0, Lokeren 0. Att: 6,000.
Standard 4 (Wilmotts 33, 54, Asselman 47, 75), **Ekeren 1** (Hofmans 84). **Att:** 14,000.
Kortrijk 0, Club Brugge 3 (Cossey 45, Van der Elst 81, Booy 90). **Att:** 9,500.
Cercle Brugge 2 (Weber 71, 74), **Beveren 2** (Soudan 62, Van Vossen 67). **Att:** 3,000.

ENGLAND

FA Cup — Fourth Round
Southampton 0, Manchester United 0

League Cup — Fourth Round
Middlesboro v Peterboro — Postoned

Midweek
Liverpool 2 (Molby pen 44, Houghton 65),
Arsenal 0. Att: 33,753.

Weekend
Arsenal 1 (Rocastle 44), **Manchester United 1** (McClair 27). **Att:** 41,703.
Crystal Palace 0, Coventry City 1 (Smith 30). **Att:** 13,818.
Leeds United 3 (Sterland 12, Batty 57, Wallace 77), **Notts County 0. Att:** 27,224.
Liverpool 1 (Rosenthal 31), **Chelsea 2** (Jones 21, Wise 75). **Att:** 38861.
Manchester City 1 (White 28),
Tottenham Hotspur 0. Att: 30,123.
Norwich City 2 (Ullathorne 49, Fleck 74),
Southampton 1 (Cockerill 71). **Att:** 10,660.
Nottingham Forest 2 (Keane 18, Pearce pen 73), **Sheffield United 5** (Lake 11, Gannon 21, Bryson 24, Bradshaw 60, Deane 88). **Att:** 22,412.
QPR 1 (Penrice 18), **Wimbledon 1** (Fashanu pen 48). **Att:** 9,194.
Sheffield Wednesday 3 (Hirst 17, Williams 78, Harkes 85), **Luton Town 2** (Preece 21, Oakes 35). **Att:** 22,291.
West Ham United 1 (Thomas 34), **Oldham Athletic 0. Att:** 19,012.
Aston Villa 0, Everton 0. Att: 17,451.

FRANCE

Midweek
St Etienne 1 (Degueville 90), **Marseille 1** (Papin 12). **Att:** 23,172.

Weekend
Toulouse 0, Marseille 2 (Papin 57, Deschamps 75). **Att:** 27,300.
Caen 0, Montpellier 0. Att: 6,800.
Toulon 1 (Rodriguez 54), **Monaco 1** (Passi 20). **Att:** 7,000.
Lens 0, Auxerre 0. Att: 7,500.
Metz 1 (Calderaro 27), **Le Havre 1** (Garande 21). **Att:** 7,300.
Rennes 0, Cannes 0. Att: 6,800.
Paris SG (Reynaud 15, Simba 29, Perez 77), **Lyon 0. Att:** 17,000.
Sochaux 2 (Thomas 2, Silvestre 41), **Lille 1** (Oleksiak 58). **Att:** 2,000.
Nimes 1 (Cucciuffo 65), **Nancy 2** (Sechet 15, Vairelles 32). **Att:** 8,600.
St Etienne v Nantes — Postponed

GREECE

Korinthos 0, Panathinaikos 2
OFI Crete 1, Panachaiki 1
AEK Athens 1, Olympiakos 1
Panionios 2, Heraklis 2
Aris Salonika 1, PAOK 1
Doxa Drama 3, Larissa 1
Ethnikos 2, Apollon 1
Pierikos 1, Xanthi 0
Athinaikos 2, Serres 0

HOLLAND

Weekend
Roda JC 0, PSV 0. Att: 7,000.
VVV v MVV — Postponed
Willem II 5 (Stewart 8, 71, Vincent 44, 69, Van Geel 77), **Fortuna Sittard 0.**
Att: 4,000.
Ajax 0, FC Groningen 0. Att: 16,400.
Vitesse 0, FC Volendam 0. Att: 5,588.
FC Den Haag 0, RKC 0. Att: 2,200.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Feyenoord 1 (Metgod 53). **Att:** 8,500.
FC Twente v FC Utrecht — Postponed
Sparta 1 (Van den Berg 66), **De Graafschap 1** (Hofstede 47). **Att:** 2,500.

ITALY

Midweek
Cremonese 0, Internazionale 1 (Klinsmann 90). **Att:** 20,000.

Weekend
Ascoli 1 (Aloisi 55), **Atalanta 0. Att:** 7,000.
Napoli 3 (Zola 23, Blanc 27, 54),
Cremonese 0. Att: 39,500.
Genoa 3 (Skuhravy 8, 17, Caricola 58),
Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 1, 80). **Att:** 30,000.
Juventus 4 (Baggio pen 2, pen 52, 53, Casiraghi 90), **Foggia 1** (Petrescu 61).
Att: 45,000.
Cagliari 1 (Bisoli 4), **AC Milan 4** (Van Basten 55, 70, pen 73, Massaro 79).
Att: 40,000.
Bari 1 (Fortunato 70), **Parma 1** (Di Chiara 28). **Att:** 29,900.
Internazionale 0, AS Roma 0.
Att: 40,500.
Verona 0, Sampdoria 0. Att: 30,000.
Lazio 2 (Sosa pen 28, Sclosa 41), **Torino 1** (Annoni 40). **Att:** 35,000.

PORTUGAL

Salgueiros 1, Penafiel 1
Boavista Porto 3, Uniao Madeira 0
Gil Vicente 2, Beira-Mar 0
Vit. Guimares 1, Benfica 3
Sp. Lisbon 4, Sp. Braga 2
Estoril 2, Famalicao 1
Torriense 0, FC Porto 0
Maritimo 1, Chaves 0
Pacos de Ferreira 1, Farense 0

SCOTLAND

Cup — Third Round
Dundee v Stirling Albion — Postponed

Cup — Third Round Replay
Motherwell v Ayr United — Postponed

Weekend
Aberdeen 1 (Jess 73), **Dunfermline 1** (McParland 81). **Att:** 7,500.
Celtic 2 (Coyne 47, McStay 62), **Falkirk 0.**
Att: 16,929.
Hearts 0, Rangers 1 (McCoist 66).
Att: 22,000.
Motherwell 1 (Angus 66), **Hibernian 1** (Tortolano 64). **Att:** 6,105.
St. Johnstone 1 (Wright pen 44), **Dundee United 1** (Ferguson 29). **Att:** 6,364.
St Mirren 4 (Torfasson 15, 17, 61, Hewitt pen 87), **Airdrie 1** (Kirkwood pen 57).
Att: 3,432.

SPAIN

Weekend
Sevilla 1 (Mortagon 60), **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Ciganda 70, Valverde 86). **Att:** 47,000.
Sporting Gijon 1 (Luhovy 56), **Valladolid 0. Att:** 17,500.
Real Madrid 1 (Poli o.g. 43), **Cadiz 1** (Arteaga 75). **Att:** 80,000.
Logrones 2 (Uribarrena 31, Da Silva 66),
Tenerife 0. Att: 10,500.
La Coruna 0, Valencia 1 (Giner 31).
Att: 22,000.
Albacete 1 (Zalazar 26), **Osasuna 0.**
Att: 13,000.
Burgos 1 (Loren 26), **Atletico Madrid 1** (Futre 66). **Att:** 9,500.
Mallorca 2 (Stosic 9, Hassan 90), **Oviedo 1** (Bango 41). **Att:** 10,000.
Espanol 1 (Luis 28), **Zaragoza 0. Att:** 30,000.
Real Sociedad 2 (Carlos Xavier 12, Alkiza 61), **Barcelona 1** (Bakero 45). **Att:** 17,480.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

CONCACAF CUP-WINNERS' CUP — Final round (in Guatemala)
January 15
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 1 (Vargas)
RACING CLUB (Guadeloupe) 1 (Daclinat)
HT: 1-1.
Comunicaciones: Jerez, Vasquez, Uberti, Acevedo, Contreras, Torres (Larumbre), Leon, Hernandez (Arriazaga), Bordon, Pwerez, Vargas.
Racing: Narcisse, Daclinat, Paquin, Hamousin, Theobald, Alphonse, Absalon (Delorem), Rabaot, Foggeo, Wills, Pierre.

ATLETICO MARTE (ES) 1 (Alas)
UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA (Mex) 0
HT: 1-0.
Marte: Lozano, Cartagena, Martinez, Turcios, Sanabria, Castro, Castillo, Garcia, Veliz (Lizama), Cardoso, Alas (Arbizu).
Univ.de Guadalajara: Quintero, Higareda, Clay, Cortez, Hernandez, Romero, Gutierrez, Del Valle, Mora, Savedra (Herrera), Mariscal.

January 17
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 0
UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA (Mex) 0
Comunicaciones: Jerez, Vazquez, Acevedo, Uberti, Contreras, Leon, Larumbe (Giron), Chacon, Perez, Torres, Vargas (Bordon).
Univ. de Guadalajara: Quintero, Higareda, Clay, Cortez (Hernandez), Gutierrez, Sosa, Romero, De Valle, Mora, Mariscal, Chagas.

ATLETICO MARTE (ES) 4
RACING CLUB (Guad) 1

January 19
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 1 (Arriazaga)
ATLETICO MARTE (ES) 0
HT: 1-0.

UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA (Mex) 2
(Mariscal, Herrera)
RACING CLUB (Guad) 1 (Absolon)
HT: 2-0.

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Marte	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
Comunicaciones	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Univ. Guadalajara	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Racing	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

(At Marte champions on goal difference)

INTERNATIONALS
(U-23 Olympic teams)
Dec. 2 — Venezuela 3 Ecuador 1; Jan. 5 — Ecuador 1 Venezuela 1; Jan. 8 — Uruguay 2 Mexico 2; Bolivia 1 Peru 0; Jan. 12 — Peru 2 Bolivia 0; Colombia 1 Ecuador 1; Jan. 14 — Argentina 1 Paraguay 1; Jan. 15 — Uruguay 3 Brazil 0; Jan. 19 — Brazil 0 Argentina 1; Ecuador 2 Colombia 1; Peru 4 Mexico 3. Jan. 2 — Mexico 2 Italy 1; Jan. 12 — Argentina 3 Mexico 0; Jan. 16 — Chile 3 Mexico 0; Jan. 18 — Uruguay 3 US 2.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS
Jan. 19 — Honduras Olympic Select 0 Hamburg (Ger) 0.

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maritimo	13	6	6	1	16	10	18
Minerven	13	7	4	2	16	6	18
Tachira	14	7	3	4	16	10	17
U. de los Andes	14	6	5	3	19	13	17
Trujillanos	13	6	4	3	20	11	16
Caracas FC	13	5	5	3	19	14	15
Mineros Guyana	13	4	7	2	17	14	15
Lara	13	5	4	4	16	11	14
Anzoategui	13	4	5	4	13	12	13
Italia	13	5	3	5	15	17	13
Monagas	13	5	2	6	13	15	12
Zamora	13	4	3	6	16	11	11
Industriales	13	2	6	5	13	19	10
Estud. Merida	13	2	6	5	11	18	10
Portuguesa	13	1	4	8	7	22	6
Salineros	13	0	6	7	7	23	6

URUGUAY
"Liguilla" Libertadores Cup qualifying tournament

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor Sporting	3	3	0	0	9	4	6
Penarol	3	2	0	1	6	2	4
Nacional	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Central Espanol	3	1	0	2	4	7	2
Danubio	3	1	0	2	2	6	2
Wanderers	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

EL SALVADOR
First Division — 1) Luis Angel Firpo 30pts; 2) Alianza 26; 3) FAS 23; 4) At. Marte, Fuerte San Francisco, BAYGON-ADET 19; 7) Tiburones, Aguila 17; 9) Metapan; 10) Cojutepeque 13.

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Aut. Mexico	21	10	6	5	36	22	26
Veracruz	21	8	5	8	24	24	21
Atlas	21	6	8	7	22	21	20
U. Aut Guadalajara	21	6	6	9	25	28	18
Cobras C. Juarez	21	3	6	12	19	32	12

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U. Aut Tamaulipas	20	10	5	5	25	13	25
Puebla	21	9	7	5	23	21	25
Guadalajara	21	4	12	5	14	18	20
Monterrey	21	6	6	9	10	29	18
Queretaro	21	3	6	12	15	29	12

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leon	21	7	10	4	24	19	24
Cruz Azul	21	9	5	7	30	25	23
Santos	21	7	8	9	27	25	22
Necaxa	21	6	7	8	29	27	19
Toluca	21	5	8	8	25	32	18

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	21	11	8	2	41	27	30
America	21	9	6	6	29	28	24
Univ. Nuevo Leon	21	9	4	8	34	32	22
Morelia	21	6	9	6	24	23	21
Univ. Guadalajara	20	5	7	8	21	32	17

GUATEMALA
First Division — 1) Municipal 30pts; 2) Chiquimulilla 27; 3) Comunicaciones (played one less), Deportivo Izabal 25; 5) Galcasa 21; 6) Juventud Retalteca 20; 7) Del Monte 19; 8) Suchitepequez, Aurora 18; 10) Dep. Escuintla 16; 11) Tipografia Nacional (played one less), Xelaju 13.

COSTA RICA
First Division, Group 1: 1) Alajuelense, Uruguay, Herediano 5; 4) Perez Zeledon 3.
Group 2: 1) San Carlos, Saprissa 5; 3) Turrialba 4; 4) Limon 1.
Group 3: 1) Carmen 6; 2) Cartagines 5; 3) Puntarenas, Guanacaste 2.

CHILE
Libertadores Cup 3rd place play-off, Final — 1) Universidad Catolica 6pts (*qualified*); 2) O'Higgins 3; 3) Antofagasta 2; 4) Concepcion 1.

1992 LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND
GROUP 1
(Chile — Argentina)

18.02.92	Colo Colo (Chi) v Coquimbo (Chi)	1-0
21.02.92	Colo Colo v Univ. Catolica (Chi)	1-1
26.02.92	Coquimbo v Univ. Catolica	
26.02.92	Newell's (Arg) v San Lorenzo (Arg)	
03.03.92	Newell's v Coquimbo	
03.03.92	San Lorenzo v Colo Colo	
06.03.92	Newell's v Colo Colo	
06.03.92	San Lorenzo v Coquimbo	
09.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Newell's	
13.03.92	Univ. Catolica v San Lorenzo	
17.03.92	Coquimbo v Colo Colo	
20.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Colo Colo	
25.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Coquimbo	
25.03.92	San Lorenzo v Newell's	
31.03.92	Coquimbo v Newell's	
31.03.92	Colo Colo v San Lorenzo	
03.04.92	Coquimbo v San Lorenzo	
03.04.92	Colo Colo v Newell's	
07.04.92	San Lorenzo v Univ. Catolica	
10.04.92	Newell's v Univ. Catolica	

GROUP 2
(Bolivia — Brazil)

06.03.92	Criciuma (Bra) v Sao Paulo Bra)	
06.03.92	Bolivar (Bol) v San Jose (Bol)	
17.03.92	San Jose v Sao Paulo	
20.03.92	Bolivar v Sao Paulo	
24.02.92	San Jose v Criciuma	
27.03.92	Bolivar v Criciuma	
02.04.92	Sao Paulo v Criciuma	
02.04.92	San Jose v Bolivar	
07.04.92	Sao Paulo v San Jose	
10.04.92	Criciuma v San Jose	
14.04.92	Sao Paulo v Bolivar	
18.04.92	Criciuma v Bolivar	

GROUP 3
(Ecuador — Venezuela)

23.02.92	Maritimo (Ven) v ULA (Ven)	1-2
23.02.92	Barcelona (Ecu) v Valdez (Ecu)	0-0
11.03.92	ULA v Valdez	
15.03.92	Maritimo v Valdez	
18.03.92	Maritimo v Barcelona	
22.03.92	ULA v Barcelona	
29.03.92	Valdez v Barcelona	
29.03.92	ULA v Maritimo	
01.04.92	Valdez v Maritimo	
04.04.92	Barcelona v Maritimo	
07.04.92	Valdez v ULA	
10.04.92	Barcelona v ULA	

GROUP 4
(Colombia — Peru)

26.02.92	America (Col) v At. Nacional (Col)	
26.02.92	Sport Boys (Peru) v Sp. Cristal (Peru)	
10.03.92	America v Sport Boys	
13.03.92	At. Nacional v Sport Boys	
17.03.92	America v Sp. Cristal	
20.03.92	At. Nacional v Sp. Cristal	
25.03.92	At. Nacional v America	
25.03.92	Sp. Cristal v Sport Boys	
31.03.92	Sport Boys v America	
03.04.92	Sp. Cristal v America	
07.04.92	Sport Boys v At. Nacional	
12.04.92	Sp. Cristal v At. Nacional	

GROUP 5
(Paraguay — Uruguay)

04.03.92	Sol de America (Par) v Cerro Porteno (Par)
04.03.92	Defensor (Uru) v Nacional (Uru)
10.03.92	Defensor v Cerro Porteno
13.03.92	Nacional v Cerro Porteno
17.03.92	Nacional v Sol de America
20.03.92	Defensor v Sol de America
25.03.92	Cerro Porteno v Sol de America
31.03.92	Sol de America v Nacional
01.04.92	Cerro Porteno v Defensor
08.04.92	Cerro Porteno v Nacional
09.04.92	Sol de America v Defensor

SECOND ROUND
First Leg
April 22
Second Leg
April 29

QUARTER-FINALS
First Leg
May 6
Second Leg
May 13

SEMI-FINALS
First Leg
May 20
Second Leg
May 27

FINAL
First Leg
June 6
Second Leg

INTERNATIONAL TABLES

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	17	13	4	0	38	13	43
Fenerbahce	17	13	2	2	39	16	41
Galatasaray	17	11	3	3	24	11	36
Trabzonspor	17	11	2	4	37	17	35
Aydinspor	17	7	5	5	18	21	26
Genclerbirligi	17	5	8	4	25	23	23
Sariyer	17	6	3	8	20	26	21
Bursaspor	17	5	5	7	18	23	20
Gaziantspor	17	4	7	6	18	25	19
Bakirkoyspor	17	4	6	7	24	26	18
Konyaspor	17	4	5	8	20	21	17
Boluspor	17	4	4	9	17	23	16
Ankaragucu	17	3	7	7	18	25	16
Altay	17	4	3	10	15	27	15
Adanademirspor	17	3	6	8	16	33	15
Samsunspor	17	2	4	11	19	36	10

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	18	13	4	1	32	8	27
Red Star	18	12	2	4	48	15	26
Proleter	18	9	2	7	25	24	21
Sarajevo	18	9	4	5	22	17	20
OFK	18	8	6	4	33	24	19
Zemun	18	9	2	7	28	20	19
Vojvodina	18	9	2	7	21	20	19
Borac	18	8	5	5	13	13	18
Radnicki	18	8	1	9	20	21	17
Vardar	18	7	3	8	26	19	16
Zeljeznicar	18	6	3	9	18	25	15
Rad	18	7	2	9	24	27	14
Velez	18	6	3	9	23	30	14
Sloboda	18	5	2	11	16	33	12
Pelister	18	5	2	11	17	35	11
Sutjeska	18	5	2	11	23	28	10
Spartak	18	5	3	10	15	33	10
Buducnost	18	4	5	9	12	20	9

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	27	18	9	2	48	21	57
Leeds Utd	28	15	11	3	52	23	66
Man City	29	14	8	7	42	33	50
Liverpool	28	12	12	4	35	24	48
Sheff Wed	28	13	8	7	44	40	47
Arsenal	29	11	10	8	50	34	43
Chelsea	29	10	10	9	39	41	40
Crystal Palace	27	10	9	8	38	44	39
Aston Villa	28	11	5	12	34	33	38
Oldham	29	10	7	12	45	48	37
Everton	28	9	9	10	36	33	36
Tottenham	27	10	4	13	35	35	34
Norwich	28	8	10	10	33	38	34
QPR	29	7	13	9	29	35	34
Nottm Forest	26	9	6	11	41	41	33
Sheff Utd	28	9	6	13	43	48	33
Coventry	27	9	5	13	28	29	32
Wimbledon	27	7	10	10	32	34	31
Notts City	27	7	6	14	28	38	27
West Ham	26	6	9	11	25	38	27
Luton	28	6	7	15	22	51	25
Southampton	27	5	8	14	27	45	23

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shelbourne	25	16	6	3	43	20	38
Derry City	25	14	7	4	34	12	35
Cork City	25	12	9	4	37	23	33
Dundalk	25	12	8	5	35	23	32
Bohemians	25	12	7	7	36	26	29
Shamrock Rov	25	7	12	6	25	20

Back on Tyneside . . . Keegan (left) with his assistant and former Liverpool, Newcastle and England team-mate Terry McDermott.

Keegan comes back at the bottom

Home news BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

ENGLAND'S Second Division is the place for big managerial stories.

Blackburn appointed Kenny Dalglish to steer them to the Premier League, and Newcastle have called in his Kevin Keegan to spare them the ignominy of relegation to the Third Division.

Keegan had been out of football since ending his career at Newcastle eight years ago. Under pressure from their backers, the club turned to him in the hope that he might rekindle the magic which won them to promotion before.

The instant pay-off was spectacular. A crowd of 29,263 saw Newcastle score three goals in the second-half against Bristol City and register their first win in seven matches.

"Fairytale stuff," said Keegan. "It's a dream start — everything I could have hoped for. But we can't get carried away by one result."

Newcastle were still trapped in the bottom three, but Keegan was promised £1m to spend on players and could count on the home supporters.

The man he replaced, Osvaldo Ardiles, had tried to build with young players, encouraging the measured approach which characterised his own play. That style earned him results as well as appreciation at Swindon.

In 11 months at Newcastle, however, he won only 10 games out of 47, and the chairman, Sir John Hall, said: "If Kevin had not agreed to come back our financial backers would have had to pull the rug from under our feet. To put it simply, it was Keegan or bust."

Keegan, now 41, played 63 times for England, and moved from Liverpool to Hamburg in 1977 and was twice European Footballer of the Year. He returned home in 1980 to join Southampton, and had two seasons there before ending at Newcastle.

He has started his new job without a contract. If he shows signs of putting Newcastle "where they belong" and all parties are content, he will sign a two-year deal at the end of the season.

Up in the First Division, Leeds and Manchester United have stuttered and spluttered since the turn of the year, exchanging top spot in the process.

All a trifle confusing for Eric Cantona, the French striker who joined Leeds on loan. He went on as a substitute at Oldham but found himself shackled out of the action in a 2-0 defeat.

So Manchester United returned to the top at the end of a week in which they went out of the FA Cup. They became the first Division One club to lose on penalties, after their fourth-round replay with Southampton had ended 2-2.

Fourth Division Wrexham, who caused one of the big FA Cup upsets when they put Arsenal out, lost 1-0 in a replay to West Ham after 2-2 draw.

The first leg of the League Cup semi-final between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur was drawn 1-1.

Dziekanowski (left) in action for Bristol City against Leicester City.

JACKIE JUMPS BACK

ONCE in a while a character turns up in the most unexpected of places to remind us what the beautiful game really means.

I was lucky enough to catch Dariusz Dziekanowski, Jackie to his friends and admirers, in only his second match for Bristol City since they rescued him from Celtic reserves.

Dziekanowski, the 29-year-old Polish striker punctured Leicester's optimism by creating the first goal, broke their hearts by heading the second and, by the end of a 2-1 triumph, had mesmerised defenders to such an extent that they could not lay a boot on him.

But, with respect to City, why is an artist with 63 international caps slumming it in the English Second Division? The answer is that despite becoming the fans' favourite at Parkhead, his reputation as the new playboy of the western world soured his relationship with Celtic manager Liam Brady.

"I was in the reserves for four months but every time the coach told the manager I was playing well the manager had his fingers in his ears," said Dziekanowski. "He either had earache or hadn't forgotten I kicked him in an international!"

Jimmy Lumsden, the ex-Celtic and Morton player who is now manager at Ashton Gate has no such reservations about the former Legia Warsaw player who was dubbed the George Best of Polish football.

He had competition from a German club but said: "When I got Jackie down to Bristol I didn't let him out of the room until he signed." He already has evidence that his modest £250,000 outlay could become the bargain of the season. Lumsden says: "He works hard in training, has a good temperament, and his outstanding skill and touch have given all of us a lift.

"His reputation doesn't bother me. Coming from Poland and becoming the fans favourite, he probably got carried away. I'm a Glaswegian so I know it's the sort of place where you can go out for one pint and end up having 15.

"I don't care what he does on Saturday night if he can turn it on for us on Saturday afternoon."

JIM **HOOLEY**

TREVOR BROOKING

Clubs must get the balance right

AS the dramas involving the different cups, promotion and relegation issues gradually build to their climax, there is also some interesting activity taking place off the pitch.

The continual discussions and arguments to find an acceptable structure for the proposed Premier League have only emphasised how difficult it is for football as a whole to portray itself to the outside world as the efficient, marketable product it hopes to become.

Hopefully these differences can be settled in sufficient time for all parties to maximise the crucial media and sponsorship deals necessary for a successful launch of the new ideas for next season.

Money is always at the heart of most heated debates, but in the next two years the need for finance will undoubtedly top the agenda in every football boardroom.

Complete

How are clubs going to be able to afford to complete the huge cost of the changes needed under the Taylor report? All can take advantage of a grant from the Football Trust, but in many cases that is only a small part of the total.

This search for finance has already brought controversy to a few clubs who have tried to raise money through a debenture bond issue to fans.

Following the example of Rangers, Arsenal were the first English club to launch such a scheme, and initially sold a few thousand before planning problems caused a setback, which has now been resolved.

This early response was quite encouraging, especially as the two prices on offer were £1,100 and £1,500, in an effort to raise in excess of £16 million.

Arsenal had one distinct advantage when it was launched because the team were the current League Champions, and there was an expectancy that their squad should continue to win honours.

This might explain why West Ham received such a hostile reaction when they announced their bond issue in November.

With the side struggling in the relegation zone and little money spent on strengthening the playing squad, the supporters voiced strong disapproval.

Many alternatives have been put forward, including both public and private share issues, but with money so tight during the recession these seemed unlikely to raise sufficient funds.

West Ham made some welcome adjustments as a result of the criticisms, and with discounted prices and much longer to pay, the bond sales should improve.

Leeds are another club recently launching a bond scheme, but again they have the benefit of success on the field, whereas most of the 46 clubs falling within the Taylor requirements do not have average gates large enough to support major redevelopment.

One obvious argument is that clubs should have done something before being forced to do so, but it is too late now.

Directors will also point out that it is no good having a superb stadium if the team are not worth watching, so money spent on players is vital.

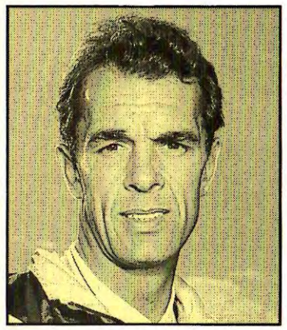
The secret, of course, is to get the balance right between the two, but with wages and transfer fees so excessive at present, it is an awful headache.

That is why wages and transfer fees must fall dramatically. Once ground capacities are cut, clubs will not have the revenue to meet such demands.

The changing face of football may not be to everyone's liking, but change there is, and it is important for clubs to act now if they are not to get left behind.

Not standing for it . . . West Ham fans make their protest with a sit-in before the FA Cup tie with Wrexham.

EARLY DAYS, SAYS JORDAN
'WE MUST ACHIEVE MORE CONSISTENCY'



THE MAN who put the life back into Hearts believes that these are early days for the club.

Joe Jordan (above), long one of soccer's buccaneers, is now proudly flying the flag for his Premier Division title-chasers, and putting Scotland-bashers in their place at the same time.

"I came to Hearts at the end of September 1990," he says. "I was happy at Bristol City but it still seemed like the right move. I've no regrets.

"I was a part-time draughtsman for two years before I became a full-time professional. I know what it's like to be on the fringe of the game.

"I played for Morton, Leeds United, Manchester United, AC Milan, Verona, Southampton and then finally Bristol City. It was a marvellous experience with many high spots, great team-mates and great managers. I call upon that experience a lot when faced with certain situations as Hearts manager."

Jordon, who won 52 caps, goes on: "I first turned to management when I was at Bristol City. I joined the club as a player and then combined playing with being assistant manager to Terry Cooper. Terry left to join Exeter in 1988, and I took over as player-manager.

"In the following season we finished in mid-table and reached the semi-final of the League Cup, losing by an odd goal to Forest, who then won it. We felt that it was quite an achievement.

Contribute

"I gradually relegated myself to substitute, and played only if I felt that I could contribute more than someone else. Being substitute means you can get on and reorganise if necessary. It's very frustrating when you can't play.

"We were promoted in 1989-90 and I was looking forward to a season in Division Two. Then the Hearts job came up, just after the season started .

"I came here and had a look and it felt right, even though they were bottom.

"It was definitely a challenge. I could feel the potential and I could feel the tradition. There were some good players and the fans are great — as passionate a set as you'll find anywhere. They helped me decide."

Bristol City were disappointed, but cheered up by the £75,000 cheque they received from Hearts.

The Jordan legacy is still evident at Ashton Gate, City are still in Division Two, and Hearts have been inspired by Jordan's presence. They climbed away from the bottom to finish fifth, and this season they have battled for supremacy at the top of Scottish football.

But Jordan, the manager, insists: "We're only just beginning. The club has been going a long, long time but this is only the start for the new Hearts.

"We've got to build on what we have achieved so far. There is a lot more to come yet. We have to have consistency. One good spell is not enough.

"Football is full of disappointments. We had 15 games without defeat and conceded only seven goals. Then Aberdeen thumped us 4-0. That was a real disappointment."

Jordan has to operate on a tight budget. "We can't buy success — we're in debt," he says. "The board will back me with money if or when it's available, but mostly it's not. I understand that."

Soccer in Scotland could get another lift if the national side turn it on in Sweden during the European finals.

"What a challenge it is for them," says Jordan. "They have an extremely difficult task and they will do well to progress beyond the first round."

But before that there is the climax to the current season. Jordan, family man and football manager, says: "We've got a team who have to prove they're a great team. To be a great team you have to be successful over a number of years. We can do it at Hearts, and that's why I say that this is only the beginning."

BERNARD **BALE**

SETTLER ON SAINT'S DAY

THE outcome of the Bord Gais League of Ireland could be decided on St. Patrick's Day, when Shelbourne, the current leaders, are home to second-placed Derry City.

If the season ended on a Friday night Shelbourne almost certainly would win the title for the first time since 1962.

They prefer to play on Friday, so that the thousands of junior players in the Dublin area can attend, and usually go top, but by 5pm on Sunday evenings, Derry have been regaining the lead.

Jim McLaughlin, who guided Derry to the treble of League, Cup and League Cup in 1989, is now general manager of Shelbourne.

Gary Haylock has been commuting from Huddersfield and his goals have made Shelbourne favourites.

In two years the new board have turned Tolka Park into a compact all-seat stadium, an example to the rest of the League. What has happened to the money other clubs made over the years?

The Republic meet the Swiss at Lansdowne Road on March 25 — probably the last time fans will be allowed to stand on the terraces.

The FAI must abide by the FIFA directive that all sectors at World Cup qualifying games must be seated, and hope to have temporary stands on the terraces ready for a "dry run" in the friendly against the United States next month.

SEAN **CREEDON**

Coleraine in crisis

COLERAINE, so long ago the leading provincial side in Northern Ireland, and regular European competitors, are a club in deep crisis.

Manager Willie McFaul (formerly keeper and then manager at Newcastle United) resigned after a shattering 2-0 home defeat in a Bass Irish Cup fifth round (when the "big clubs" join in) replay against "B" Division side Dungannon Swifts.

McFaul, who had been in charge since July 1991, said that he had made up his mind to quit before the Cup debacle, describing the situation as "intolerable".

Excellent players had been sold and replacements had not been bought. A statement by the directors, that they would resign at the end of the season, was welcomed by the majority of fans, who have every sympathy with McFaul.

The 36-year-old former international Felix Healey has taken over as player-manager, having rejoined his old club after a very successful spell with Derry City.

He will need all the magic he can muster to drag the club up from the bottom three. Last season Coleraine finished last for the first time since 1949-50.

There was another managerial casualty at Carrick Rangers, where Robbie Barr resigned after a 3-0 Cup defeat away to holders Portadown.

At the top of the League table, Glentoran, Portadown and Linfield had made it a three-club race with two-thirds of the programme completed.

Belfast's Crusaders are improving under manager Roy Walker, and won some welcome silverware by defeating Glenavon 2-1 in the Cawoods Co. Antrim Shield.

On the international front, the Northern Ireland representatives are all pleased with the World Cup fixture list they were able to obtain. The team begin their qualifying tournament in Belfast on April 28, against Lithuania.

ROY **KITSON**

MERTHYR IN LUCK

MERTHYR have been given special dispensation in their efforts to join the Football League.

As one of the rebel Welsh clubs trying to stay in the English promotion pyramid, Merthyr have been told that they can stay in the GM Vauxhall Conference until 1997. If they have not gained Fourth Division status by then, they must join the new League of Wales.

The decision was made by a Welsh FA appeals tribunal, but similar pleas by the other rebels — Bangor City, Barry, Caernarfon, Colwyn Bay, Newport County, Newtown and Rhyl — were rejected.

Merthyr have spent more than other Welsh club in an effort to bring their ground up to the necessary standard.

Their chairman, John Reddy, said: "We support the other clubs in their efforts, and we're confident of getting into the English League system before the deadline."

The club were ninth in the Conference last season, 30 points behind champions Barnet, whose success took them into the Football League. As March began, Merthyr were in the middle of the table.

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SOP

financial backers would have had to pull the rug from under our feet. To put it simply, it was Keegan or bust."

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Jim McLaughlin, who guided Derry to the treble of League, Cup and League Cup in 1989, is now general manager of Shelbourne.

Gary Haylock has been commuting from Huddersfield and his goals have made Shelbourne favourites.

In two years the new board have turned Tolka Park into a compact all-seat stadium, an example to the rest of the League. What has happened to the money other clubs made over the years?

The Republic meet the Swiss at Lansdowne Road on March 25 — probably the last time fans will be allowed to stand on the terraces.

The FAI must abide by the FIFA directive that all sectors at World Cup qualifying games must be seated, and hope to have temporary stands on the terraces ready for a "dry run" in the friendly against the United States next month.

SEAN **CREEDON**

Dziekanowski (left) in action for Bristol City against Leicester City.

JACKIE JUMPS BACK

ONCE in a while a character turns up in the most unexpected of places to remind us what the beautiful game really means.

I was lucky enough to catch Dariusz Dziekanowski, Jackie to his friends and admirers, in only his second match for Bristol City since they rescued him from Celtic reserves.

Dziekanowski, the 29-year-old Polish striker punctured Leicester's optimism by creating the first goal, broke their hearts by heading the second and, by the end of a 2-1 triumph, had mesmerised defenders to such an extent that they could not lay a boot on him.

But, with respect to City, why is an artist with 63 international caps slumming it in the English Second Division? The answer is that despite becoming the fans' favourite at Parkhead, his reputation as the new playboy of the western world soured his relationship with Celtic manager Liam Brady.

"I was in the reserves for four months but every time the coach told the manager I was playing well the manager had his fingers in his ears," said Dziekanowski. "He either had earache or hadn't forgotten I kicked him in an international!"

Jimmy Lumsden, the ex-Celtic and Morton player who is now manager at Ashton Gate has no such reservations about the former Legia Warsaw player who was dubbed the George Best of Polish football.

He had competition from a German club but said: "When I got Jackie down to Bristol I didn't let him out of the room until he signed." He already has evidence that his modest £250,000 outlay could become the bargain of the season. Lumsden says: "He works hard in training, has a good temperament, and his outstanding skill and touch have given all of us a lift.

"His reputation doesn't bother me. Coming from Poland and becoming the fans favourite, he probably got carried away. I'm a Glaswegian so I know it's the sort of place where you can go out for one pint and end up having 15.

"I don't care what he does on Saturday night if he can turn it on for us on Saturday afternoon."

JIM **HOOLEY**

Coleraine in crisis

COLERAINE, so long ago the leading provincial side in Northern Ireland, and regular European competitors, are a club in deep crisis.

Manager Willie McFaul (formerly keeper and then manager at Newcastle United) resigned after a shattering 2-0 home defeat in a Bass Irish Cup fifth round (when the "big clubs" join in) replay against "B" Division side Dungannon Swifts.

McFaul, who had been in charge since July 1991, said that he had made up his mind to quit before the Cup debacle, describing the situation as "intolerable".

Excellent players had been sold and replacements had not been bought. A statement by the directors, that they would resign at the end of the season, was welcomed by the majority of fans, who have every sympathy with McFaul.

The 36-year-old former international Felix Healey has taken over as player-manager, having rejoined his old club after a very successful spell with Derry City.

He will need all the magic he can muster to drag the club up from the bottom three. Last season Coleraine finished last for the first time since 1949-50.

There was another managerial casualty at Carrick Rangers, where Robbie Barr resigned after a 3-0 Cup defeat away to holders Portadown.

At the top of the League table, Glentoran, Portadown and Linfield had made it a three-club race with two-thirds of the programme completed.

Belfast's Crusaders are improving under manager Roy Walker, and won some welcome silverware by defeating Glenavon 2-1 in the Cawoods Co. Antrim Shield.

On the international front, the Northern Ireland representatives are all pleased with the World Cup fixture list they were able to obtain. The team begin their qualifying tournament in Belfast on April 28, against Lithuania.

ROY **KITSON**

MERTHYR IN LUCK

MERTHYR have been given special dispensation in their efforts to join the Football League.

As one of the rebel Welsh clubs trying to stay in the English promotion pyramid, Merthyr have been told that they can stay in the GM Vauxhall Conference until 1997. If they have not gained Fourth Division status by then, they must join the new League of Wales.

The decision was made by a Welsh FA appeals tribunal, but similar pleas by the other rebels — Bangor City, Barry, Caernarfon, Colwyn Bay, Newport County, Newtown and Rhyl — were rejected.

Merthyr have spent more than other Welsh club in an effort to bring their ground up to the necessary standard.

Their chairman, John Reddy, said: "We support the other clubs in their efforts, and we're confident of getting into the English League system before the deadline."

The club were ninth in the Conference last season, 30 points behind champions Barnet, whose success took them into the Football League. As March began, Merthyr were in the middle of the table.

TREVOR BROOKING

Clubs must get the balance right

AS the dramas involving the different cups, promotion and relegation issues gradually build to their climax, there is also some interesting activity taking place off the pitch.

The continual discussions and arguments to find an acceptable structure for the proposed Premier League have only emphasised how difficult it is for football as a whole to portray itself to the outside world as the efficient, marketable product it hopes to become.

Hopefully these differences can be settled in sufficient time for all parties to maximise the crucial media and sponsorship deals necessary for a successful launch of the new ideas for next season.

Money is always at the heart of most heated debates, but in the next two years the need for finance will undoubtedly top the agenda in every football boardroom.

Complete

How are clubs going to be able to afford to complete the huge cost of the changes needed under the Taylor report? All can take advantage of a grant from the Football Trust, but in many cases that is only a small part of the total.

This search for finance has already brought controversy to a few clubs who have tried to raise money through a debenture bond issue to fans.

Following the example of Rangers, Arsenal were the first English club to launch such a scheme, and initially sold a few thousand before planning problems caused a setback, which has now been resolved.

This early response was quite encouraging, especially as the two prices on offer were £1,100 and £1,500, in an effort to raise in excess of £16 million.

Arsenal had one distinct advantage when it was launched because the team were the current League Champions, and there was an expectancy that their squad should continue to win honours.

This might explain why West Ham received such a hostile reaction when they announced their bond issue in November.

With the side struggling in the relegation zone and little money spent on strengthening the playing squad, the supporters voiced strong disapproval.

Many alternatives have been put forward, including both public and private share issues, but with money so tight during the recession these seemed unlikely to raise sufficient funds.

West Ham made some welcome adjustments as a result of the criticisms, and with discounted prices and much longer to pay, the bond sales should improve.

Leeds are another club recently launching a bond scheme, but again they have the benefit of success on the field, whereas most of the 46 clubs falling within the Taylor requirements do not have average gates large enough to support major redevelopment.

One obvious argument is that clubs should have done something before being forced to do so, but it is too late now.

Directors will also point out that it is no good having a superb stadium if the team are not worth watching, so money spent on players is vital.

The secret, of course, is to get the balance right between the two, but with wages and transfer fees so excessive at present, it is an awful headache.

That is why wages and transfer fees must fall dramatically. Once ground capacities are cut, clubs will not have the revenue to meet such demands.

The changing face of football may not be to everyone's liking, but change there is, and it is important for clubs to act now if they are not to get left behind.

Not standing for it . . . West Ham fans make their protest with a sit-in before the FA Cup tie with Wrexham.

BARCELONA

Zubizaretta, Nando, Laudrup, Koeman, Stoichkov

Baquero, Ferrer, Goicoechea, Witschge, Amor, Eusebio